

Jordan Times

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Saddam: United States cannot win

PARIS (R) — President Saddam Hussein said U.S. forces have no hope of winning a confrontation with Iraq. "A U.S. victory is not realistic," he said. "The United States would need to win on three fronts: Beat the Iraqi army, crush the Iraqi economy and oust the Iraqi regime," he said. "One victory would not be enough." A composed looking Saddam Tuesday before Saddam's offer to let all foreign women and children leave Iraq and Kuwait, TPI said. Asked if he feared a U.S. air raid on his palace, he replied: "The United States is not the angel of death. Listen, you know the history of Saddam Hussein? Saddam made clear he was moving around and not staying at one place which could be the target for an air raid. Let me ask you: How many leaders in the world have been killed in a war since aviation was invented? None," he said. "I trust the Iraqi people, I trust the Iraqi army and this trust comes only second to my trust, my faith in God," he replied.

Tunisian minister to try mediation

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali has chosen a close aide as foreign minister to attempt a mediating role in the Gulf crisis, officials said Wednesday. The new foreign minister, Habib Douglas, named Tuesday to replace Ismail Khelil, is considered a moderate. "As a moderate country Tunisia is playing a more active role on the Arab and international stages, so why not offer our mediation?" one official told Reuters. Diplomats said Pierre Mauroy, one of French president Francois Mitterrand's special envoys on the Gulf crisis, encouraged the Tunisians to play a mediating role during a visit last week. Tunisia did not attend an emergency Arab summit on Aug. 10, which called for the deployment of Arab troops in Saudi Arabia. Officials said Tunisia would stay away from a scheduled Arab League meeting in Cairo Thursday. At the same time Boulares would attend a meeting in Algiers of foreign ministers from the five north African states of the Arab Maghreb union to draft a common position on the crisis.

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U.S. clarifies position on Aqaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States had no intention of delaying cargo or passengers bound for Jordan, a State Department statement said Wednesday. "Indeed, our goal in dealing with other governments, international shippers and others will continue to be to ensure that Jordan's legitimate trade is not hindered in any way," the statement said. "To avoid undue delay, we advise all shipping lines to ensure that ships bound for ports in the region carry no cargo destined for Iraq in contravention of U.N. Security Council Resolution 661. Ships suspected of carrying such cargo are likely to be delayed or diverted."

House briefed on People's Army

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Emergency Committee held a meeting Wednesday and was briefed on the duties of the People's Army by its commander. The commander also briefed the committee on preparations taken by the People's Army. Several members of the committee presented several proposals on ways to activate the role of the People's Army.

Jackson in Baghdad

NICOSIA (AP) — U.S. civil rights leader Jesse Jackson arrived in Baghdad Wednesday to meet with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The Iraqi News Agency said Jackson was met by Foreign Ministry officials. Jackson, an unsuccessful candidate for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination in the United States, said Tuesday that he hoped to help keep the Middle East from sliding into a full-scale war. "If (leaders) keep talking and keep acting the worst scenario can be avoided," he told reporters in Amman, before departing for Baghdad. "It is better when people talk, talk, talk rather than fight, fight, fight." Jackson flew to Iraq for the U.S. television show "Inside Edition." He planned to see Saddam, senior officials, and also Americans and other foreigners held in Iraq.

De Michellis in Algiers

ALGIERS (R) — Foreign Minister Gianni De Michellis of Italy, current president of the European Community, arrived in Algiers Wednesday to discuss the Gulf crisis. The official news agency APS said his visit would give new impetus to diplomatic efforts being deployed in all directions to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. He was greeted by Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali with whom he was due to have talks.

Assad meets Hrawi

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Lebanese President Elias Hrawi discussed the situation in Lebanon and the Gulf crisis Wednesday. Lebanese officials said Hrawi would review with Assad his options to oust defiant Christian General Michel Aoun from the presidential palace and defence ministry in East Beirut.

Iraqi diplomat beaten up in London

LONDON (R) — An Iraqi diplomat had his nose broken and Iraq's embassy buildings in London have been stoned in attacks in the four weeks since Iraq's takeover of Kuwait. Iraqi Press Attache Naeef Hassan told Reuters Wednesday that Second Secretary Wajdi Anwar Murad was attacked and had his nose broken while sitting in his car near a supermarket in the first week of August. The attacker, an Egyptian driving a Mercedes belonging to some Kuwaitis, was arrested, Hassan said. The Iraqi press office has been stoned twice and its windows broken and the embassy stoned once, he added. "The police are trying to blame football hooligans for the first attack, which I don't believe," Hassan said. "Why was the press office the only building they attacked in Tottenham Court Road which is full of shops with video equipment?"

Iraq: All foreigners can leave if U.S. pledges no strike

WASHINGTON (R) — The Iraqi ambassador to the U.S. said Wednesday foreign men could leave Iraq if the United States promised not to launch a military strike and repeated that women and children were free to go immediately. "Even men can leave if the United States can guarantee us that they are not going to strike Iraq," Mohammad Al Mashat told reporters outside the State Department. "I just informed the State Department now officially all women and children of foreign nationals... are permitted to leave Iraq as they wish," he said. When asked when they could leave, Mashat said, "as of today," but he added, "it is not possible administratively to have everybody go on the same day." Mashat, who spoke to reporters after a 90-minute meeting with State Department officials, said arrangements were being made in Baghdad for foreign women and children to leave, saying they would probably travel via Jordan or Turkey. Tens of thousands of foreigners remain in Iraq and Kuwait. Iraq is holding some at key military and industrial sites to deter a U.S. attack. Asked if Iraq would withdraw from Kuwait, Mashat replied, "that is one precondition we don't accept."

"We are willing to negotiate to avoid war," he said, but he ruled out any preconditions for talks. "Still you are holding the whole country as a hostage," he said. "Still we are under threat of strike by the United States." "You have assembled an offensive force against Iraq which will bring us to the brink of catastrophe for everybody," he said. President George Bush called the Gulf crisis "one of the toughest military missions in modern memory." The president gave a radio pep talk broadcast Wednesday morning over armed forces radio to troops in Saudi Arabia, but most U.S. soldiers in the Gulf did not hear it because the radio network does not have a transmitter in Saudi Arabia. In his radio speech, Bush told the troops, "you stand on the front line against aggression and international lawlessness."

"You're now in one of the toughest military missions in memory," Bush added. "As tough as it is, know this: Thanks to you, nobody's feeling the heat more than the government in Baghdad." The president's pep talk came a day after he received a strong vote of confidence for his policy from members of Congress. Some said they wanted to see other wealthy nations share the cost. In Helsinki British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said no mediation was needed in the Gulf crisis and that Iraq must comply with U.N. resolutions by withdrawing from Kuwait. Speaking at a news conference on the second day of a three-day visit to Finland, Thatcher said U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Jordan were not negotiations. Despite Saddam's offer to release women and children held in Iraq and Kuwait, Thatcher repeated her accusation that the Iraqi leader had hidden "behind the skirts of women and children" and called on him to free the men too. U.S. ambassador Roger Harrison was at the Jordanian border post of Ruweisah to supervise the reception of any American women and children arriving there, the embassy said. American diplomatic officials have staffed the border around the clock for two weeks in case any U.S. nationals were freed. Harrison's presence suggested new arrivals were imminent. But no Westerners had crossed the border by mid-afternoon, and reports from Baghdad said their departure was stalled because they did not have the required exit visas. British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Saddam's decision to release foreign women and children was part of a "game" but Britain would do its best to bring them home. "This is a cat and mouse game, now a little mercy, now some more ruthlessness and of course it's quite unacceptable," Hurd told a news conference.

U.N. chief, Aziz to hold formal talks tomorrow

By P.V. Vivekanand
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz are scheduled to hold informal talks late Thursday before a formal round of discussions Friday morning, informed sources said Wednesday. The sources said the U.N. chief, who left New York for Paris Wednesday, will meet with French President Francois Mitterrand, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the French capital before heading for Jordan. He is expected to arrive Thursday evening. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, will also hold talks with the U.N. chief, sources said. There was no indication Wednesday that His Majesty King Hussein, who was due in Morocco Thursday on the last leg of a visit to the Maghreb states, will fly back to Amman to meet U.N. secretary-general. The King will fly to Europe, most probably to Spain, according to sources. One of the sources said the King was due in Rome on Sept. 4 for talks with the lead-

ers of Italy, the current president of the European Community (EC). The monarch will also visit West Germany and Britain but precise details were not available. Back in Amman, observers said the informal round of talks between Perez de Cuellar and Aziz appeared designed to pave the way for solid grounds for discussions on Friday. They noted that the U.N. chief and the Iraqi foreign minister have developed a close relationship during their contacts in the context of Iran-Iraq peace negotiations. "It remains to be seen how far this relationship will help break

new ground against the backdrop of the apparent deadlock," commented a senior European diplomat referring to the core of the issue: The American demand for and the Iraqi rejection of withdrawal from Kuwait. Prior to his departure from New York, Perez de Cuellar said he had received a telephone call from U.S. President George Bush encouraging him in his efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis and wishing him well. "I had yesterday (Tuesday)

Arafat offers mediation with five-point proposal

GENEVA (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, offering to mediate the Gulf crisis, proposed in a five-point plan Wednesday that a United Nations force replace all foreign forces in the Gulf. In a speech read by a representative at a Geneva "forum" on Palestine, he said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) offered to mediate in the crisis triggered by Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait. The plan would end all sanctions against Iraq and implement them against any state which refused to withdraw from the territories it occupied. "Through this initiative we are seeking to avoid the use of armed force and the military solution in treating the complex issues of the region," Arafat said. The PLO leader repeated that a solution to the crisis should be found within an Arab framework. Nabil Ramlawi, the PLO's ambassador in Geneva, who delivered the speech on Arafat's behalf at a U.N.-sponsored meeting of human rights groups on Palestine, said the U.N. force would be an interim measure until a political solution could be reached.

Arafat urged an end to international sanctions against Iraq. However, in a clear reference to Israel, the statement called for sanctions against "any state that refuses to withdraw from the territories it occupies." Ramlawi said this did not apply to Iraq because it was assumed that an Arab solution would make sanctions unnecessary. Ramlawi told the Association Press the statement was drawn up by Arafat Monday and represented the PLO's latest position on the Gulf crisis. The statement said the PLO was acting as a mediator in the conflict and did not side with one party against another. "It said that PLO efforts to find a peaceful negotiated solution to the crisis within an Arab context" had been met with an "unjust, vicious and unfair campaign" against the Palestinian people. Arafat's public stance against Western intervention in the Gulf and friendship with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has prompted widespread criticism of the PLO in the West and in pro-Western Gulf states. The PLO is concerned that the crisis has diverted attention away from the Palestinian uprising.

In his statement, Arafat accused the United States of applying a "selective policy of double standards" in its treatment of Iraq and Israel. "The Gulf crisis exposes with out clarity the blind bias towards Israel of successive United States governments," he said. "What is most unfortunate is that the United States is acting to bend the United Nations and international law to save its own national interests as a superpower, and the interests of its ally, Israel." Washington suspended an 18-month-old dialogue with the PLO in June after Arafat failed to condemn a raid on an Israeli beach by a radical Palestinian group. The PLO peace plan called for a solution for all outstanding and critical problems in the Middle East region, "be it in the Gulf in Kuwait, in Palestine, in Lebanon or in the Golan." Arafat said the PLO's position on the Gulf issue had been misrepresented through a campaign of distortion. "But it will not stop us from continuing our efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the crisis in the Gulf and in the region," he said.

Iraqi move expected towards Kuwait autonomy

The Associated Press

AMMAN — Saddam Hussein is expected to declare federated self-rule for Kuwait in a bid to ease the Gulf crisis and allow the United States to withdraw in partial victory, senior Arab military officials said Wednesday. The idea, already floated to the Soviet Union and the United States, may figure Thursday in talks between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in Amman, the sources said. The officials, who spoke frankly on the understanding that neither they nor their countries would be identified, said Saddam was likely to announce the move before the end of September. Under a plan now being considered, they said, Kuwait would have autonomy similar to that in Kurdish territory in northern Iraq. Saddam would accept a timetable and conditions to protect

U.S. interests in the Gulf, they said. According to the officials' analysis, neither Saddam nor U.S. President George Bush can withdraw from the lines they have drawn in the desert sand. Both are buying time until some flexibility can be found. Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2. Six days later, Saddam annexed it despite universal condemnation and a massive American military buildup in Saudi Arabia. On Aug. 28, he declared Kuwait as Iraq's 19th province. The officials said Iraq was still working on the details of its federation plan which, presumably, would provide a different status for Kuwait. The idea was passed to Soviet officials who, in turn, relayed it to Washington. The Arab sources said, Perez de Cuellar is expected to sound out Aziz and report to Washington. "Iraq's move will take some time," one official said. "But there should be a surprise from Baghdad

in three to four weeks." Bush has repeatedly rejected out of hand any solution but the withdrawal of Iraqi forces and restoration of the Kuwaiti government. U.S. officials have made no public acknowledgment of flexibility. But the Arab sources said that privately the Americans were looking for some compromise which would make their point, assure stability in the Gulf oilfields and allow an honourable disengagement. "The Americans must bear in mind that Iraq will never let go of Kuwait," one official said. If no solution could be negotiated, the others agreed, Kuwait would have to be retaken by force. The officials considered the next three weeks to be crucial to Washington. U.S. forces can wait until late September when desert temperatures cool, move units and heavy weapons, particularly tanks, arrive and the troops are acclimated to the terrain. But after that, Saddam's mes-

African leader lauds Jordan, accepts invitation

King in Mauritania after meeting Benjedi, Mandela

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday arrived at Nouakchott, capital of Mauritania, on the fourth leg of his current tour of North African countries to discuss a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. The King, accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and his political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, went to Mauritania from Algiers after concluding a two-day visit for talks with Algerian President Chadli Benjedi dealing with the Gulf crisis and means of ending the dispute through peaceful means under an Arab umbrella without foreign intervention. Upon leaving Algiers, the King

made a statement emphasising the need for a solution to the Gulf crisis through Arab mediation. Many Arab countries believe in the need of ending the Gulf crisis peacefully, the King said. While in Algiers, King Hussein had a meeting with South African black leader Nelson Mandela and voiced the Jordanian people's admiration of the freedom struggle of the black people of South Africa. The King told Mandela that the Jordanian people regard him as "a national hero who has dedicated his life and efforts to liberate his people from oppression." The King extended to Mandela an invitation to visit Jordan. The invitation was accepted and a

date for it is still to be fixed, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. Mandela voiced his people's appreciation of the King and the Jordanian people and paid tribute to the King's efforts at the Arab and international levels to achieve peace. Mandela wished the King total success in his endeavour and a peaceful end to the Gulf crisis. Mandela expressed appreciation for the Arab people's support to the people of South Africa and their just struggle for freedom and in the fight against apartheid. (Continued on page 4)

5 league members not to attend Cairo meeting

TUNIS (Agencies) — At least four Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will shun an Arab League meeting to review the Gulf crisis, league sources said Wednesday. The meeting, scheduled for Thursday in Cairo, will study how the resolution adopted by the 21-member league against Iraq two weeks ago has been applied. Twelve league members voted to condemn Iraq for invading Kuwait and agreed to send Arab troops to Saudi Arabia. Only Egypt, Morocco and Syria have done so. Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, Libya and the PLO have addressed official notes to the league headquarters in Tunis saying they will not attend Thursday's meeting, league sources said. Diplomatic sources said Yemen and Mauritania may also boycott the gathering. Others may also stay away. Algeria, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Somalia, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates have said they will send representatives to the meeting, various sources said. League Secretary-General Chadli Khilji has been charged to submit a report every 15 days to the league's council of ministers stating how the Gulf resolutions have been carried out. The ministers are then supposed to adopt the necessary measures to implement them. (Continued on page 4)

West should talk to Saddam — Regent

MADRID (R) — The West should pursue Iraq's offer of negotiations over the Gulf crisis or risk escalating violence in the region, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said in an interview published Wednesday. "We risk the tragedy of a spiral of violence in the region and for this reason we should take seriously, and not as propaganda, Iraq's offer of negotiation," he told El Pais. Apparent calm in the region this week could be deceptive and the slightest provocation could still touch off a war, he said. Prince Hassan said Jordan remains Iraq's only interlocutor in the present crisis. "Amman has become the relay point for Baghdad diplomacy. We have not sought this but we have become the only window left for Baghdad to speak to the world," he said. Prince Hassan indicated Iraqi President Saddam Hussein may be considering a withdrawal of troops from Kuwait. "While some demand the un-

conditional withdrawal from Kuwait and to stop using foreigners as a shield, (Saddam) wants guarantees of non-aggression during a withdrawal. I think this is reasonable," he said. However, Prince Hassan said a withdrawal of Iraqi troops in itself was not a straightforward proposition and it remained to be seen how far they might withdraw. "The problem between Iraq and Kuwait dates from the start of the century. Baghdad recognised the Republic of Kuwait in 1961 but never reached agreement on the borders; when we talk of an Iraqi withdrawal, we must ask where to," he said. He reaffirmed Jordan's total opposition to Iraq's annexation of Kuwait but said there were historical disputes that must be discussed, governing economic and oil questions. Iraq's invasion on Aug. 2 followed demands from Baghdad for economic compensation from Kuwait for vast oil deposits it said the emirate stole from it.

Overflow prompts brake on arrivals

By P.V. Vivekanand
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A massive presence of over 55,000 mostly Asian evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq, prompted Jordanian border authorities Wednesday to apply a sharp brake on the human flow across the Al Ruweisah border post and to call on various governments to adopt immediate action to fly home their nationals awaiting homeward flights. "We simply cannot take it," said a senior official. "On the one hand, we have over 55,000 people in various sites in and around Amman, and on the other hand, thousands are coming in." The outward flow simply does not match the influx," he added. "We are asking every concerned diplomatic mission to contact their governments and accelerate the evacuation process."

The official confirmed that orders had gone out to the Al Ruweisah post that only those evacuees whose embassies provide "very firm arrangements for immediate evacuation" should be allowed in. "Also, an equal or lesser number of people of the same nationality as those flown out should be allowed in on a day-to-day basis," the official added. In line with the instructions only about 5,000 people were permitted to cross by Wednesday evening, and several diplomatic missions reported intense contacts with their governments in a bid to speed up the evacuation process. The six-day-long massive airlift meanwhile managed to clear a huge backlog of Egyptian nationals and officials at Aqaba said rush had subsided Tuesday and Wednesday at the airport where a massive international airlift is under way since Friday. However backlog remained on the ferry link to Nuweibeh. According to official statements, a total of 223,973 foreigners entered Jordan through the Ruweisah post until midnight Tuesday and 170,440 them were Arab nationals and the others of various Asian countries. Of the total 69,520 left by air, others by road to Syria or by sea to Egypt, leaving about 55,000 waiting to go home. Every transit camp in Amman is "overflowing" and "around 5,000" are being housed at makeshift camps at Azraq and near Ruweisah, a relief official said. "I do not think many of them will be allowed to travel to Amman unless the backlog at the Amman camps is cleared, and order has been restored," he added. International organisations and dozens of governments have extended assistance in cash and in kind to Jordan to help cope with the situation, and a rough estimate put the aid received so far at around \$20 million, mostly in the form of food supplies, water and sanitation equipment and tents as well as medicines. Pledges would add up to another \$15 million. A major part of the assistance has been directed at facilitating the evacuation of Egyptians, who constituted the largest expatriate community in Iraq with 1.6 million and the third largest in Kuwait with

(Continued on page 4)

Morocco expels 2 Iraqi officials

RABAT (Agencies) — The government expelled two officials of Iraq's ruling Baath Party Wednesday after Moroccan diplomats in Kuwait were threatened and taken "hostage" by Iraq.

Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad Cherkaoui told the Iraqi embassy that the two officials were no longer welcome in the country, the official MAP news agency reported.

The Iraqis were identified as Issa Salmane Hamid and Hicham Hassan Ahmad, both attached to the embassy and responsible for the Baath Party's African affairs desk.

Cherkaoui expressed the government's "profound displeasure" over the treatment of its diplomats in Kuwait, MAP reported.

Cherkaoui summoned Iraqi Ambassador Shahr Fadi to tell him the officials must leave. The statement did not say when.

He protested about the "detention" of Moroccan diplomats as a violation of the Vienna convention on diplomatic immunities.

Earlier Tuesday, the ministry said Moroccan diplomats had been stopped at gunpoint while trying to enter their embassy in

Kuwait Saturday and ordered to leave for Baghdad.

On arrival, Iraqi authorities told them they could not leave the country because they had lost their diplomatic immunity.

"This means they have become hostages like numerous other foreign residents who are not allowed to leave Iraq," a ministry statement said.

Morocco, which has sent 1,200 troops to Saudi Arabia, had joined at least 20 other countries in refusing to obey Iraqi orders to close the embassy.

Officials said there were four diplomats at the embassy in Kuwait and about 12 local staff and their dependents.

The ambassador, Abdul Wahed Ben Messaoud, was away on holiday when Iraqi troops took over Kuwait Aug. 2.

"Morocco considers its embassy in Kuwait is still open, in conformity with international law and principles, and decisions of the Arab League and the security council," the foreign ministry statement said.

Iraqi troops have cut off water and electricity to embassies refusing to close.

Tokyo offers money, medics and civilian supplies to Gulf efforts

TOKYO (AP) — Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu Wednesday offered money, medical personnel and non-military supplies to the multinational effort against Iraq, but refused to transport soldiers or weapons to the Gulf region.

Japan's long-awaited assistance package was short on details and appeared less than the help sought by Washington, which faces the huge cost of sending tens of thousands of troops to Saudi Arabia.

The nationally televised announcement came nearly four weeks after the Aug. 2 Iraqi take over of Kuwait and at the end of a day of non-stop discussions among government officials.

Although Japan quickly joined the embargo on trade with Iraq, a further response to the crisis was slowed by a debate over what is permissible under Japan's post-World War II constitution, which bars the use of force in settling international disputes.

Under the plan, Japan will use civilian airplanes and ships to transport food, water and medical supplies to the Gulf. Kaifu said Japan would not ferry military

personnel or weapons.

In comments to Japanese reporters Tuesday night, the U.S. ambassador to Japan, Michael H. Armacost, urged Tokyo to help transport soldiers and weapons, said the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, the country's leading economic newspaper.

Turkey, Egypt and Jordan were singled out as nations that will get "substantial economic assistance," according to a copy of the package distributed by the government. But no exact figures or timetable were given.

The package did not include increased funding for U.S. troops in Japan, as had been anticipated.

The only specific sum mentioned was \$10 million in aid for people who have fled Iraq and Kuwait to Jordan and more money to countries in the region suffering financially because of the crisis.

Japan also promised to send to the Gulf about 100 medical personnel, water and goods for fighting heat.

There was no immediate reaction from the U.S. embassy to the package announced by Kaifu.

U.S. warships continue to search Red Sea vessels

DUBAI (R) — Crew of U.S. warships in the Red Sea have recently boarded several vessels, including ships flying Kuwaiti and Iraqi flags, to enforce the U.N. trade embargo against Iraq, a senior Western naval source said Wednesday.

Western warships throughout the Gulf region have been constantly questioning ships which might be carrying cargoes to Iraq or Kuwait, but this was the first report vessels had been boarded.

The source said the crews of the boarded vessels did not resist. He did not say which ships were stopped, when they were boarded, or what the U.S. navy had ordered them to do.

Baghdad has ordered its ships not to resist Western orders to halt and be searched in an apparent effort to avoid violence.

A Sri Lankan-flagged tanker, the Kota Wirama, was stopped by a U.S. warship in the Red Sea and prohibited from entering the Gulf of Aden on Wednesday, Lloyd's shipping intelligence said.

"It is understood that the ves-

sel had Iraqi and Jordanian cargoes on board from the Far East. These cargoes are suspected to have included chemical consignments that were ultimately bound for Iraq," Lloyd's said, citing reports from Amman.

It said the Kota Wirama was believed to be the first vessel deprived from entering the Gulf of Aden by naval vessels enforcing the blockade.

A U.S. spokesman in Riyadh said he could not comment on the reported boardings.

The multinational armada has effectively blocked Iraq's narrow sea route out of the Gulf, Western naval sources say.

But Aden as well as Yemen's refinery plant at Aden, which has refining contracts with Iraq, have been potential weak links in the blockade.

Regional traders say goods are still landing at Aden on their way to Iraq.

Jordan has said it will respect the U.N. blockade but has asked for a precise list of which goods are banned.

Turkey vague over Iraqi request for food, medicine

HABUR (Agencies) — Iraq Wednesday asked Turkey for medical and food supplies urgently needed by Iraqi children, a Turkish minister said.

State Minister Isin Celebi met with the Iraqi oil minister, Issam Chalabi, for two hours Wednesday at this border post. The talks were requested by Iraq.

Celebi told reporters Turkey would consider the Iraqi request for medical and food supplies in line with U.N. regulations on the matter.

The U.N. Security Council decision ordering a broad economic embargo on Iraq makes an exception for emergency medical and food supplies.

Turkey has stopped all trade with Iraq except for exports of medical supplies. Celebi did not make clear whether Turkey might now send food for Iraqi children.

He said, however, "Turkey will respect U.N. sanctions fully and until the very end."

Celebi's remarks after the meeting were carried by the semi-official Anatolia news agency.

The minister said the question of Iraq's oil exports through Turkey was not discussed.

Following Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait, Turkey shut off two pipelines carrying Iraqi crude through Turkey and banned all transit trade through Turkey.

Celebi said Turkey "will never accept" Iraq's takeover of Kuwait and urged a peaceful solution to the crisis.

The Turkish side asked Iraq to allow Turkish nationals in Kuwait and Iraq to leave quickly.

Three thousand Turks have so far returned home from the two countries but about 1,000 remain.

Fahd's brother finds it hard to shake image

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (AP) — A spokesman for Prince Turki Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia would like you to know the prince is a fairly regular guy; even if he owns several homes and palaces, has a staff of 4,000 and belongs to the second-richest family in the world.

With an entourage of nearly 100 people and a tractor-trailer filled with luggage, that's a tough sell when you pull into a hotel — as the royal family did here four weeks ago — at a cost of about \$10,000 a day.

Fact and fantasy quickly become blurred.

Take, for example, the story of a Cambridge police officer on the special security detail who said

that Turki ordered the air conditioning turned off on the two floors he took over on arriving at Charles Hotel.

"They like to keep it like it is in their country. All the cops working up there are dying," said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "A kid told us they even had a space heater up there."

For Mustapha Aziz, the prince's political adviser and spokesman, the reaction is typical to princes from oil-rich countries such as Saudi Arabia, under scrutiny since American and other troops were sent there following the Aug. 2 Iraqi take over of Kuwait.

"No, the air-conditioning is not

off," Aziz said. "That kind of stereotype is too much."

"Everyone thinks we are coming here with many wives, that kind of thing. It does not apply to this family... He is out of that picture of greedy princes."

Still, the 53-year-old prince's penchant for frequent travel and long stays at expensive hotels is unusual.

The youngest of King Fahd's six brothers, Turki has no business dealings, lives off his inheritance and does largely philanthropic work. He travels with a staff of 60 to 100, including seven cooks. The costs of about 40 to 50 rooms at the Charles to house workers and set up offices with facsimile machines, telephones and a satellite dish may exceed

\$10,000.

Aziz said that is not a big entourage for a member of the Fahd family, which is worth \$18 billion and is the second richest family in the world, according to Fortune magazine. "We have three full shifts," he said.

A police officer said that when the prince's 11-year-old son wanted to play video games one day, he was escorted to an arcade by four police officers.

"The kid had \$300 in quarters with him," he added.

Aziz said only that had the Iraqi take over not occurred, few would have known he was in town to discuss contributions to Harvard and have his three children get medical checkups.

Najibullah vows to step down if it would help peace

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan President Najibullah has vowed to step down if it would help bring peace to his country, restating a pledge his ministers have recently disavowed.

Opening the national assembly Tuesday, he said his return from medical checks and a month's holiday in the Soviet Union had confounded rumours he would not come back to Kabul, Afghanistan's Bakhtar news agency, monitored in Islamabad, said Wednesday.

"In the future too, I as a son of Afghanistan with sense of responsibility and patriotism will stand in every kind of conditions and hardships beside you and in the service of my country," he told deputies before leaving on a visit to India.

"But if the cause of peace, which is dear to me, demands my keeping aloof, as I have repeated, I am ready to sacrifice myself."

Najibullah has said in the past he would be ready to step down if necessary, then pulled back, saying he would stay in power until defeated in elections.

In June, Afghan Foreign

Minister Abdul Wakil rejected any suggestion Najibullah should give in to the demands of Afghan guerrillas and their U.S. backers and quit.

The Soviet Union and the United States, the main supporters of the two sides in the 12-year-old Afghan war, have drawn closer in recent months on a political solution.

In New Delhi, Najibullah made no mention of stepping down in brief remarks to reporters after being greeted by President Ramaswamy Venkataraman, Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh and top cabinet ministers at the presidential palace.

"The danger to peace in this region is a matter of concern to peoples of both countries," he said.

"It is a favourable time for an exchange of views, particularly under prevailing conditions of change in the region," he added.

Najibullah did not elaborate during the formal welcome to India, where he arrived on Tuesday night hours ahead of schedule, apparently for security reasons.

But Indian Foreign Minister Inder Gujral said the change of government in Pakistan and the crisis in the Gulf would probably be discussed.

"I'm going to get an assessment from (Najibullah) of the Pakistan political situation," Gujral told reporters.

"Pakistan, one of the main backers of Mujahadeen rebels fighting Najibullah's government, is to hold elections on Oct. 24 following the dismissal of Benazir Bhutto's government earlier this month."

Gujral said he was not sure how the Gulf crisis might affect the search for an end to the Afghan war, in which well over a million people have been killed and another five million forced to flee to Pakistan and Iran.

"I hope not," he said when asked if the Afghan issue would be pushed to the bottom of the international agenda by the tense stand-off in the Gulf.

The Afghan ministers of defence, foreign affairs, commerce, civil aviation, and light industries are accompanying Najibullah on his second trip to India which is



Najibullah

one of the few countries that recognise his government.

Najibullah's long stay in the Soviet Union sparked rumours that Moscow was ready to dump the president as part of a deal with the United States on a mutual peace plan.

He told the assembly in Kabul he discussed a political solution to the war with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze while in Moscow, but Bakhtar gave no details of the discussions.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637285.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terremata Church Tel. 622666.

Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Epiphane Church Tel. 771751.

Assiout International Church Tel. 827981, 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 812285.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932.

Weather

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot and winds will be westerly/light to moderate.

In Asaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Prayer Times

06:03 Fajr

06:04 Sunrise

12:36 Dhuhr

16:13 Asr

19:08 Maghrib

20:29 Isha

Churches

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish

Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637285.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terremata Church Tel. 622666.

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Churches

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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AMMAN: Dr. Abdul Majid Sha'er 791405

Dr. Kayed Hakeem 793322

Dr. Khalid Abdul Qader 793392

Dr. Wael Dumani 774800

Recep 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Nasrouk pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 667070

Yacoub pharmacy 664945

Shmeidi pharmacy 637660

IRBID: Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim 636381

Al Shams' pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA: Dr. Zaid Hawatneh (985417)

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621, 611, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 787111

Overseas Calls 121

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Repairs 661101

Abdell Telephone Repairs 771111

Jordan Television 771111

Radio Jordan 771111

Water Authority 660100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Ehadi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816

Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn. 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mafias, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeidi 661714

Shmeidi Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Mashar Hospital 6672779

The Islamic, Abdell 666127/77

Al-Ahli, Abdell 6641646

Iskhan, Al-Maharraq 7771013

Al-Bashir, J. Amman 775111/26

Azmy, Marfa 89161/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)91071

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital (02)725555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02

10,715 students absorbed in Jordanian universities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The four Jordanian universities will accept a total of 10,715 students for the 1990-1991 academic year, up from 8,000 last year, and registration of students will begin Sunday, according to Dr. Mohammad Maqousi who heads a committee coordinating the acceptance of students for the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, Mutah University and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

Addressing a press conference in Amman Wednesday, Maqousi said that a total of 17,084 students, who completed their secondary class education and passed the tawjihi examinations this year, have applied for seats at the four universities. Only 16,707 applications were accepted because they met the requirements for consideration.

Last month Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan said that a total of 10,395 students would be accepted in the four universities, but Maqousi noted that a 10 per cent increase in the number was decided on by the Council of Higher Education (CHE) to give opportunities to a larger number of students to get higher education.

Maqousi said that the names of students accepted at any of the four universities were being published in the local press. He said that the registration procedure at the universities would last six days, starting with the coming Sunday.

At the press conference, held at the University of Jordan, Maqousi did not give the numbers of the students who would be accepted in each university nor the number of post graduate students who will also be taking courses this year.

As a general rule, the four universities accept students with a tawjihi average of 85 per cent and up at medical and dental colleges, students with grade 80 at their veterinary, pharmacy and engineering colleges and grade 65 and above at the rest of the colleges.

According to Dr. Hamdan, the 57 community colleges in the Kingdom will accept students with grade 50 at their Tawjihi examinations. In addition, one of the private universities, the Amman University College (AUC), is scheduled to open its doors in September. AUC officials said that the main body of the students would be expatriates and could reach 2,000 in the first year.

RJ officials deny acts of sabotage by Egyptians

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline Wednesday denied rumours about Egyptian nationals committing acts of sabotage aboard one of its planes while being flown to Cairo from Jordan.

"All these rumours circulating in Amman are baseless, and the Egyptian nationals have expressed their appreciation to the Jordanian authorities for the facilities and services offered them while in Jordan after fleeing the Gulf region," an official at RJ said.

Referring to the ongoing air transportation services at the air

ports of Aqaba and Amman as well as the Queen Alia International Airport, the official said that RJ and Egypt Air had been in close cooperation to ensure the transportation of the Egyptian expatriates to Cairo from all the Jordanian airports.

He said that planes provided by Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Belgian Airline Sabena in addition to RJ planes have been carrying the Egyptian home from Amman Airport, while air force transport planes from Egypt, and Saudi Arabia in addition to RJ have been commuting between Aqaba

Airport and Cairo to transport the Egyptian home.

The official said that nearly 6,000 Egyptians have been flown home from Jordan on a daily basis.

Referring to the Queen Alia International Airport, the official said that it has been handling almost double the normal load of work in view of the influx of evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq.

He said that unscheduled flights had been arranged to carry foreign passengers, especially those going to India, China, Pakistan, Yemen and Thailand.

Subsidised food to be rationed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayoub Saturday will hold a press conference to announce the issuance of ration cards to members of the public.

Ministry of Supply officials said that the minister would also inform the public on how to obtain ration cards to buy food as of Sept. 1, 1990.

According to the officials, rationing will cover only subsidised food commodities like milk,

sugar, wheat, rice, meat.

Following a spate of hoarding food supplies earlier this month, Ayoub announced that there was no need for rushing for food supplies which abound in Jordan, and that the Ministry of Supply's warehouses contained wheat, sugar, rice, powder milk, poultry, meat, cooking oil and animal feed of all types enough for six months.

The Ministry of Supply

announced that it had to rent a silo from the private sector in the port of Aqaba to store an additional 17,000 tonnes of rice in order to cope with the increased quantities of imported rice.

The minister toured the warehouses and made a statement advising against stockpiling of food which could deprive certain people of their share. Food could also go bad if kept for a long time.

Voluntary organisations set up relief committee

AMMAN (J.T.) — A national committee chaired by Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein has been formed to coordinate and follow up all efforts relevant to the current situation which are being exerted by the country's voluntary sector.

The formation of the committee was made by representatives of the main voluntary organisations in the country during a meeting held at the invitation of the Queen at Al Ma'wa Palace Wednesday morning.

The committee comprises representatives of the General Union of Voluntary Societies, the General Federation of Jordanian Women, the Jordan Red Crescent Society, the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund, the Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the Federation of Young Women's Christian Associations in Jordan, as well as the director general of the Jordan Cooperative's Organisation.

In a speech at the beginning of the meeting, the Queen said she called for the meeting "so that we may sit together to deliberate on how we can support official efforts and the home front during the current circumstances, as well as in the future."

She called upon all Jordanians to "heed His Majesty King Hussein's call to do our best to protect our homeland and our citizens."

The meeting also discussed formulating and adopting an integrated national programme that guarantees maximum effectiveness, as well as ways and means of creating a coordinating effectiveness in raising morale and training citizens in dealing with difficult circumstances.

The programme, called "implementation strategy of an integrated approach to face the Current Circumstances", stressed the need to train people, especially women, in effective community organisation and solidarity, civil defence and first aid, home economics, rationing of food, self-reliance in food production and alternative nutrition for children and adults alike. These training needs can be addressed through a five-day training course which can be implemented in cooperation with the government departments and the voluntary sector.

According to the strategy, local communities would be divided into "clusters" from each two women "leaders" would be identified to attend the training course. Each leader would be

expected to become a focal point for information and services in case of emergency. Thus, the NHF proposed strategy stresses, "the community will be organised, it will be trained and it will have solidarity and unity." From this training and community organisation, the strategy suggests, the local community "will be able to identify and address emergency needs."

Civil defence training, according to this integrated approach, will be given in cooperation with the Civil Defence Department. In both cases, emphasis will be placed on "practical, rather than theoretical aspects."

The economics and rationing component of the training programme, "aims at raising the awareness and the skills of women in such areas as conservation of food, energy and water, as well as the safe storage of food."

Women will also be trained in domestic ways and means of producing homemade foods from domestic animals and home agriculture. They will be encouraged to grow domestic animals and keep small home gardens where they can plant vegetables and fruits for their families' daily consumption.

223,973 arrive from Iraq, 30,622 leave through Ruweished since Gulf crisis

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 223,973 citizens of different nationalities have crossed into Jordanian territory through the border post of Ruweished since the start of the Gulf crisis and until midnight Tuesday against 30,622 nationals who left through the same border post on their way to Iraq, over the same period, according to Abdul Hamid Ershaid, director of the border and aliens section at the Public Security Department (PSD).

"The Ruweished border post is witnessing a continuous flow of evacuees fleeing Iraq and Kuwait, but officials are abiding by a set programme, admitting only up to 20,000 a day," Ershaid said.

Ershaid gave the following figures of Arab citizens crossing the Ruweished border post, in either direction:

Nationality Arrivals Departures

Jordanian 22,541 15,929

Iraqi 2,501 7,333

Egyptian 116,196 926

Saudi Arabian 1,358 43

Yemeni 8,793 68

Sudanese 3,201 574
Lebanese 5,196 147
Moroccan 352 170
Somali 105 18
Tunisian 606 89
Palestinian 393 543
Kuwaiti 49 22
Syrian 7,700 159
Algerian 33 14
Bahraini 485 3
Omani 581 —
Emirati 229 —
Qatari 56 1
Libyan 48 1
Mauritanian 5 4
Djibouti — 1

The total of Arab nationals coming was 170,440 against 29,650 leaving through Ruweished, according to Ershaid.

Ershaid gave the following figures for foreign nationals coming or leaving through the Ruweished border post during the same period:

Nationality Arrivals Departures

Thai 4,875 345

Turkish 175 159

Indian 12,803 84

Filipino 6,009 175
Spanish 66 5
Russian 737 5
American 84 4
Sri Lankan 1,630 5
Japanese 177 14
British 58 3
Chinese 37 —
New Zealand 4 —
Dutch 3 —
Irish — 3
West German 27 3
Korean 703 74
Yugoslav 1,061 74
Australian 3 —
Greek 2 14
Afghan 24 —
Romanian 64 —
Brazilian 125 2
Cuban 26 2
Bolivian 1 —
Upper Volta 1 —
Sierra Leone 2 —
Nepal 131 —
Venezuelan 3 —
Argentinian 6 —
Italian 12 1
Swedish 10 4
Tanzanian 26 —
United Nations 9 2
Canadian 17 —
Czechoslovak 114 1

Meanwhile a Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) official said Wednesday that Arab and foreign nationals leaving Jordan by air until midnight Tuesday was 69,520 aboard a total of 379 unscheduled flights. According to the official a total of 10,000 nationals left on Tuesday alone.

Discussions covered efforts to provide accommodation and health services to the evacuees now living in Jordan.

The meetings coincided with an appeal by the head of an inter-ministerial committee entrusted with the task of caring for the evacuees. Salamah Hamdan said that contacts with foreign organisations and nations were continuing to ensure further assistance. He appealed to all organisations dealing with humanitarian issues to extend all possible aid to Jordan which is taking care of thousands of expatriates.

In answer to the appeal for aid, on Aug. 29, the government of Japan decided to extend an emergency aid totalling 10 million dollars of which 8 million dollars are channelled through the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordination Office (UNDRO) to various international organisations, and 2 million dollars are allocated to the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) as a fund for evacuee relief activities in Jordan.

Further, in response to the request of the government of Jordan, the Japanese government decided to provide assistance materials worth \$700,000 or JD 460,000 to the Jordanian government through the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

These materials include 70 tents for 600 persons, water tanks, plastic sheets, 4,800 blankets, 3,000 soap, 2,000 sets of table ware, 3 months' pharmaceuticals for 5,000 persons, and 8 tons of powder milk.

Foreign embassies, organisations discuss ways of helping evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ways of handling issues related to the Arab and foreign nationals flooding Jordan at present were discussed at two meetings held here Wednesday at the offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Attending the first meeting were representatives of foreign embassies in Jordan and the European Community (EC), as well as U.N. agencies with offices in the Kingdom.

The second meeting discussed ways of ensuring speedy help to Jordan in the light of the present circumstances. It was attended by representatives of U.N. agencies as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QASF).

Discussions covered efforts to provide accommodation and health services to the evacuees now living in Jordan.

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Bonn 'troubleshooter' pessimistic about Gulf

By Mariam M. Shabib
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A prominent West German parliamentarian Wednesday landed Jordan's leading role in trying to defuse the Gulf crisis but said he was not optimistic about the increasingly "dangerous" situation.

"Jordan is one of the few countries in the region who is working on finding a political solution and an Arab solution to the current Gulf crisis," Hans Jürgen Wischniewski told reporters as he began a two-day visit to Jordan in which he will meet with Crown Prince Hassan and other senior Jordanian officials.

Wischniewski, an expert on Middle East, said he was not optimistic about the possibility of a political solution to the current crisis. "There seems little room for optimism," he said after arriving in Amman at the end of a three-nation fact-finding tour in the region which took him to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Known in Germany as the "Middle East troubleshooter", Wischniewski met with Speaker of the Lower House of Parlia-

ment Sulaiman Arar and members of the House's Foreign Affairs Committee to brief them on the outcome of his visits to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. He told his Jordanian counterparts that while Jordan was working on finding a political solution to the Gulf crisis "some others think it's not possible to find a political solution." He was referring to the leaders of some of the countries he had visited.

Jordanian parliamentarians said that Wischniewski saw the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait along with the release of foreigners held in Iraq as the first step to the realisation of political solution to the Gulf crisis.

Wischniewski, who is expected to meet with Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and Secretary General of the United Nations Javier Perez de Cuellar today said he hoped that the U.N. chief would be able to further the hope of a political solution to the Gulf crisis and "do something for the 10,000 hostages in Iraq." Sources close to the German politician said that Wischniewski found little support for a political solution, which, he

said, Germany was in favour of, from leaders in the Gulf. "The leaders in the Gulf are too afraid of Saddam Hussein, they want him to be removed," said one source on condition of anonymity. "That's why in private they expressed little support for a political solution," he added.

Officials said that although they expected Wischniewski to meet with Tariq Aziz they doubted he would visit Baghdad to meet with Saddam Hussein unless he had assurances that at least some German "hostages" would be released.

West German officials said that the government in Bonn was particularly concerned about a German man who had over a dozen broken bones and was not allowed to leave Baghdad.

Wischniewski emphasised that the position of the West German government in the Gulf crisis was "against all forms of aggression." He also said that the unanimous decision to impose an economic embargo against Iraq by the Security Council of the United Nations, would be respected by his country.

Wischniewski is among a number of West European and

American "unofficial envoys" who are touring the region to establish firsthand contact with those involved in the Gulf crisis, on behalf of their respective governments.

The West German parliamentarian recently made a vibrant speech in the German parliament, the "Bundestag" in which he condemned the takeover of Kuwait by Iraq and called on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and release foreigners as the first step to defuse the Gulf crisis.

Wischniewski is considered to be a top specialist on Middle East affairs in West Germany. His good relations with the Arab World were cemented after he voiced support for the FLN (National Liberation Front) during the Algerian revolution and became a personal friend of Algerian leader Ben Bella. The friendship earned him the nickname "Ben Wisha" among his German colleagues.

"Whenever there is a problem in the Middle East, hostages, hijackings, revolutions, anything, Wischniewski flies over immediately. He is Germany's man in the Arab World" said one seasoned German political observer.

Industrialists condemn blockade on Aqaba

By Ziyad Al Shaleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian industrial sector has voiced its condemnation of Western powers' moves designed to blockade the sea port of Aqaba, preventing Jordanian imports of food commodities from reaching the Kingdom and said it was determined to thwart the campaign.

In a statement following a meeting at the Amman Chamber of Industry representatives of the industrial sector and businessmen expressed their total support for the Iraqi people in the face of invading American forces and their allies, and said that they were determined to pursue all efforts to ensure continuous supplies of food and other commodities through the port of Aqaba.

The statement said that the concerned Jordanian authorities should take measures to guarantee the reshipment of Jordanian goods, destined for Jordan, that have been unloaded at Egyptian, Saudi and Greek ports.

It suggested the use of 2000 tonne vessels to reship those goods from the foreign and Arab ports to Aqaba.

Various issues related to import/export operations through

Aqaba were discussed at the meeting which was chaired by chamber President Khalidoun Abu Hassan.

Abu Hassan told the meeting that everything possible should be done to ensure the continuous flow into Jordan of primary materials used in the Jordanian industry and to upgrade production and improve quality.

Abu Hassan demanded reduced energy consumption under

the present circumstances, and urged factories to remove waste and protect the environment.

The meeting coincided with a statement by the Jordanian Maritime Shipping Agents Association which appealed to importers to exercise pressure on ship owners to disregard foreign threats and maintain their maritime services with the Aqaba Port.

353 U.N. staff evacuate the Gulf area in one week

By Lima Nabli
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A batch of 23 United Nations officials stationed in Iraq or Kuwait have arrived in Amman to join a group of 353 U.N. employees who had evacuated the Gulf region in the past week and are awaiting arrangements for their transportation home.

The officials who arrived Tuesday have been working at the Baghdad-based Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and are being cared for by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Amman, according to an agency official.

He said that another batch of U.N. officials working with ESCWA or the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would be arriving here from Iraq in the coming few days.

UNRWA, which has been contributing to the care and accommodation of thousands of evacuees being put up at the Amman International Fair Centre and other places, said that it offered the Jordanian government to provide experts in sanitation and sanitary problems resulting from the presence of thousands of expatriates in the country, the official said.

He said that the agency was awaiting the government's response before taking the next step in this regard, and could start with the Tallibeh refugee camp which is located on the Amman-Aqaba highway.

At the Amman International Fair Centre, the largest collection point near Amman, UNRWA has been supplying medical supplies, medical treatment and light meals to cater for the needs of the evacuees.

About 1,000 sandwiches a day are prepared at Baqaa refugee camp's supplementary feeding centre and distributed at the Am-

man International Fair collection point, the official noted.

Meanwhile, he said, a group of 25 scouts from UNRWA's schools, together with a selected number of teachers, were maintaining their assistance at the centre.

In addition, UNRWA is offering assistance to 'Medecins Sans Frontieres', a voluntary organisation participating in emergency aid to evacuees gathered in Jordan, the official continued. He said that the agency's other contributions take the form of basic foodstuffs like sugar, tea, and milk.

OBITUARY

The Jordan Office of Sir Frederick Snow deeply regrets to announce the death of:

MR. MICHAEL E. SNOW

One of its Main Board of Directors who died in London on Sunday 26 August, 1990.

Messages of condolences may be sent to the following address:

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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U.N. shows the way

IRAQI President Saddam Hussein's decision to release all foreign women and children is another indication from him that he is willing to go more than half way to resolve the Kuwaiti conflict. United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is scheduled to raise the continued presence of foreign nationals in Iraq when he meets with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Amman today or tomorrow.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar will have ample opportunity to deal with the fundamentals of the Gulf crisis instead of side issues. In this vein it would not be prudent or realistic to insist that Iraq implement all the five United Nations Security Council resolutions before any substantial talks can be held with Baghdad. If Iraq is to implement all these resolutions beforehand, then there would be nothing left to negotiate or talk about. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is not the first invasion of its kind, nor might it be the last. None of the past situations involving the use of force was resolved by an automatic implementation of relevant U.N. resolutions and prior to negotiations.

The United Nations secretary general is an able and experienced international statesman who knows very well the rules of the game. Since there is a long standing conflict between Iraq and Kuwait that goes back many decades, it would be much more beneficial to tackle these root issues and disagreements at the negotiating table before Iraq is called upon to heed the will of the international community.

There are many options available to the parties concerned on how to proceed with such negotiations. The Soviet foreign minister suggested recently that an international conference be held on the Middle East with a view to tackling the crisis. Other formulae can be proposed to this effect as well. It would therefore be utterly irresponsible — and certainly unrealistic — to ask for a roll back and nothing else in view of the complex issues involved and without first conducting meaningful negotiations leading to a peaceful resolution of all the dimensions of the conflict.

Surely Mr. Perez de Cuellar knows by now the background of the U.S. military intervention in the region and how it has come about. The issue is not strictly that of an Arab army invading another Arab state. As events unfold in the Middle East and more accurate information is obtained about the real situation and the circumstances surrounding and leading up to it, the U.N. secretary general would have the right chance to assess for himself what the next step should be and how to go about taking it.

On his visit to Amman, and based on his talks with Mr. Aziz, Mr. Perez de Cuellar would get a first-hand account of how an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, as the Bush administration demands, is an impossible condition to meet, given the heavy presence of U.S.-led foreign troops in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf and the absence of solid guarantees that Iraq will not be attacked in the intervening period.

Furthermore, a withdrawal of Iraqi troops in itself is not a straightforward proposition, as Crown Prince Hassan was saying in an interview yesterday. The problem between Iraq and Kuwait dates back to the end of World War I, and thus has complex historical dimensions. And if the talk is centred on a pullback, Baghdad will want to know where to withdraw since the Iraqis and the Kuwaitis have never reached agreement on their common borders. With this in mind, Mr. Perez de Cuellar will have more on his mind than just doing what the Americans want him to do. Our hope remains, though, that much-needed progress can still be made in his talks with Mr. Aziz, for the sake of everybody involved.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WITH the start of the De Cuellar-Aziz talks in Amman Thursday a new phase of diplomacy will have been launched to reach a peaceful settlement for the Gulf crisis, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. It is regrettable to hear George Bush announcing that his country does not expect much from such talks which to other nations of the world are warmly welcomed since they open the way for peace, the paper noted. For its part, Jordan which is spearheading pan-Arab efforts to contain the crisis is hosting the meeting with confidence that Iraq and the United Nations will work out a formula that could bring about peace, the paper continued. It is gratifying to see Arab countries of North Africa voicing backing for Jordan's efforts at a time when the peace of the world is threatened and when such efforts could be the last ray of hope for all parties involved in the crisis, said the paper. Jordan hopes that countries invading the Arab waters and lands will now open the way for peace and encourage the U.N. secretary general in his efforts to achieve that end, the paper added. The Arab masses, it said, also hope that the United Nations will take Iraqi initiative which links the Gulf crisis to the occupation of Palestine into consideration while trying to find a final solution to the region's problems.

Following President Saddam Hussein's initiative to end the Gulf crisis, an initiative which linked Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait to Israel's withdrawal from Palestinian land, every citizen in the Arab World has been asking the question: Why has the international community failed to do justice to the Palestinians although a U.N. Security Council resolution to that effect was passed 23 years ago? according to columnist Bader Abdul Haq. Writing in Al Ra'i daily, Abdul Haq says that despite the dangerous situation in the Gulf and the looming war, Saddam Hussein did not forget Palestine which he demanded to be liberated from Israeli occupation if any solution to the Gulf crisis is to be achieved. If it took the international community led by the American president a few hours or days to rally huge forces in the Gulf to confront Iraq, why had the international community including the United States fail to deal with the Palestine question for 23 years? the writer asks. It is regrettable to see the world community, including certain Arab countries, forgetting all about the Palestinians and their right.

Perez de Cuellar can contribute a lot towards peace while here

By Yacoub Jouay

The writer is a retired resident representative of UNDP. He has served in many countries in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean.

ON THE EVE of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's important visit to Jordan, I, as a retired Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who has served with the United Nations for over 20 years, and who continues to entertain a strong belief in the principles of the United Nations and its charter, would like to point out to him a few suggestions and thoughts in the hope that they will receive his kind attention.

At the outset, may I express my sincere hope for a successful mission, the results of which, if positive, will save the peoples of the Middle East and the world at large the scourge of a devastating and horrendous war. The Secretary General is no doubt familiar with the problems of the region which go back for centuries. The countries of the region have a history of more than 400 years of colonisation first by Turkey, then by England, France, Italy and Israel. The resulting problems still fester. Millions of people in the region continue to live under conditions engendered by this colonisation: conflict, threat, insecurity, statelessness, disenfranchisement, and occupation.

Even a cursory look at the

Middle East shows that the region is beset by many major problems and conflicts which are inter-related and impinge and react one on the other. Few, if any, of these problems can be effectively solved in isolation or piecemeal.

May I, therefore, venture to suggest that these problems be considered comprehensively and be resolved in their totality under auspices of the United Nations.

Permanent peace and stability in the Middle East can only be achieved if these problems are addressed as a whole on the basis of the principles of the United Nations.

Major problems which need to be resolved are:

242 and 338 and all other resolutions pertaining to the Palestine issue.

2. The annexation by Israel of Syrian territory — the Golan Heights — and its occupation of South Lebanon.

3. The resolution of the Iraq-Kuwait conflict.

4. Withdrawal of all foreign troops from the area where their presence can become a flashpoint in a major confrontation.

5. Removal and exclusion of all nuclear, biological, chemical, and star war devices from the area.

6. The rational and equitable management and regulation of the water resources of the area. The regional conflict over water is likely to become a major source of confrontation in the not-too-distant future.

7. The establishment of an oil strategy whereby the interests of the oil producers as well as the oil consumers are taken into account.

8. The establishment of an oil fund which will help finance development in the less endowed and developed countries of the region.

The Middle East is a very important and strategic area, and events — past and present — have clearly shown that it is the area most likely to be the flashpoint of a future world conflagration. The friction, tension, and anger engendered by the continued presence of these unresolved situations have turned the area into a powder keg which may erupt at any moment.

It is time that the United Nations is seized with the issue — the total issue — and that the long outstanding Middle Eastern problems become a top priority. I am confident that the United Nations has the necessary instrumentalities to undertake this urgent task under your guidance.

During his incumbency as Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Perez de Cuellar has shown a great capacity for statesmanship characterised by the wisdom of a great humanitarian, an ideal combination to lead the United Nations in this important and worthy endeavour.

May we all wish him success in his continuous and sincere efforts to bring about lasting peace and stability to this volatile region and the whole world.

War or peace hangs on U.N. chief's mission

By Anthony Goodman

Reuter

UNITED NATION — War or peace in the Gulf could hang on the outcome of a mission this week by a 70-year-old Peruvian diplomat known for his persistence and a passion for classical music.

When U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar holds talks in Amman on Thursday with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, he will bring with him nearly 50 years' experience in the art of diplomacy and almost nine years at the helm of the world organisation.

As the United States, together with European and some Arab countries, mass forces in the Gulf in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the secretary general's initiative offers a slim, possibly last hope of avoiding a shooting war.

Iraq's Tariq Aziz is no stranger to Perez de Cuellar. The two met repeatedly when the U.N. chief, in a bid to end the Iran-Iraq war, held separate negotiating sessions with their foreign ministers.

The Iran-Iraq ceasefire in August 1988, 13 months after the Security Council adopted a plan to end the fighting, was one of the secretary general's achievements.

Perez de Cuellar and Tariq Aziz continued to meet, in New York, Geneva and other

locations, trying to turn the war into a final settlement. A private, somewhat retiring man, less than spellbinding as an orator, Perez de Cuellar describes himself as a "very calm person" — a judgment confirmed by his aides.

"A U.N. secretary general must, above all things, remain serene," he said during a recent two-week trip to Latin America in response to critics who suggested his place during the Gulf crisis was back at U.N. headquarters.

Displaying one of his serene smiles, he told reporters: "If I am not in New York, it is because my presence is not totally indispensable since they invented the telephone a long time ago and they have just invented the telefax."

In diplomacy, as in other spheres, timing is all, he believes. Only after the security council, in an unprecedented display of unity, had gavelled through five resolutions aimed at Iraq, did he judge the moment ripe to jump into the arena with his own personal initiative.

Widely respected and trusted, Perez de Cuellar will be drawing on a background that has taken him from a part-time post in the Peruvian foreign ministry while still a 20-year-old law student to service in his country's embassies in France, Britain, Bolivia and Brazil.

By 1962, he had attained the rank of ambassador and has headed Peru's embassies to Switzerland, the Soviet Union, Poland and Venezuela. From 1971 to 1975, he served as his country's U.N. representative.

Perez de Cuellar was a compromise candidate for the post of U.N. secretary general after his predecessor, Kurt Waldheim, now president of Austria, ran into repeated Chinese vetoes in his bid for an unprecedented third five-year term.

Beijing insisted it was time for a third world diplomat to head the world organisation and Perez de Cuellar, as a Peruvian, had impeccable credentials.

In 1984, at the age of 66, he had a quadruple coronary bypass operation that led to speculation he might not run again. But he was soon back in harness and elected to a second five-year term that began in January 1987.

Born in Lima, Peru, on January 19, 1920, Perez de Cuellar is a lawyer by training. In addition to his native Spanish, he speaks excellent French, fluent if accented English, Portuguese acquired during service in Brazil and, by his own admission, rusty Italian.

His main diversions are literature, which he also studied at university, and classical music. Bach, Beethoven, Mozart and Schubert are his favourite composers.

Whose side is time on?

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

WASHINGTON — As president George Bush ponders his options in the Gulf crisis, a key question hangs over the choice between war and peace: Does time favour the United States or Iraq?

It is a question with so many imperatives that neither the Pentagon's huge computers nor the State Department's legions of political crystal ball-gazers have been able to provide an argument convincing enough to serve as a firm basis for policy.

On one side of the debate, analysts say, are those who hold that time works against Washington because the U.S. public has no stomach for prolonged conflict in faraway places and because the unprecedented international front against Iraq forged by Bush cannot last very long.

On the other side are those who say time is on the side of the United States because U.N.-imposed sanctions against Iraq have shown signs of being so effective that President Saddam Hussein has begun searching for a face-saving way out of the crisis.

Both sides of the argument could be based on false premises.

Opinion polls show that the overwhelming majority of Americans is opposed to a swift military strike, contrary to conventional wisdom which says the U.S. public is hungry

for quick solutions.

In turn, Saddam's ability to withstand an international blockade largely depends on Iraq's stocks of food grains — and estimates of that vary, from expert to expert, from two to six months.

At least over the next few weeks, U.S. military options appear relatively limited, despite the biggest build-up of forces since the Vietnam war.

Experts say that the 60,000 odd troops now deployed in the Gulf are sufficient to deter Iraq from attacking Saudi Arabia but would have no hope of success in an offensive against Iraqi troops in occupied Kuwait.

Even once a continuing sea and airlift brings U.S. forces to more than 100,000, the number now frequently mentioned, they would be below the two to one superiority many U.S. field commanders consider necessary for assured success. Iraq has 150,000 troops in Kuwait.

In the long run, there are few doubts that the United States would win a war against Iraq even though it has an army of a million people, good air defences and a population used to hardships.

But judging from Saddam Hussein's actions and statements over the past week, he is determined to stop short of crossing President Bush's "line in the sand" which would trigger a U.S. military response.

Policy analysts say that in the absence of a huge provoca-

tion — such as killing American hostages — any military action initiated by the United States would have an unacceptably high political price both at home and abroad.

In the Middle East, an American first-strike is seen as a virtual guarantee that the Arab states which have sided with Washington, deploying token forces to stand side-by-side with the Americans, would withdraw their support.

Internationally, both the Soviet Union and Western Europe have made clear their preference for a combination of tough diplomacy and a tight blockade to force Saddam to his knees.

Domestically, Bush and his administration are insisting that they would not allow strategy decisions to be influenced by the Iraqi leader's use of American and other foreign hostages as human shields.

According to a public poll this week, more than 50 per cent of Americans support an attack on Iraq positions if war breaks out — even if American hostages would be targets.

Still, many analysts here find it difficult to visualise Bush ordering air strikes that might result in television images of American women and children being blown to pieces by American bombs.

"Saddam has taken that (option) away from us," former Central Intelligence Agency Chief Stanislaw Turner said recently. "We are not going to bomb our own people."

King in Mauritania

(Continued from page 1)

The meeting was attended by Badran, Sharif Zeid and Abu Odeh.

The King urges a dialogue leading to Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and Western forces from the region. An Arab peacekeeping force would be deployed in Kuwait and outstanding disputes with Iraq would be solved by negotiations.

King Hussein met Mauritania leader Maouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya shortly after arriving in Nouakchott. Details of their talks were not disclosed. He was due to leave for Morocco later in the day.

The Monarch then plans to visit Britain, France, Italy, Spain and West Germany.

Arab ministers

(Continued from page 1)

Foreign ministers of the five-member Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) will meanwhile meet Thursday in Algiers, with the goal of finding a common position on the Gulf crisis, diplomats said.

The union comprises Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

Algerian President Chadli Benjedid condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait but has since pushed the idea of resolving it within a common Arab context. He holds the union's rotating presidency.

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal met with Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Al Ghazali in Algiers to brief him about Riyadh's position before the meeting Thursday.

The Cairo meeting is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. (1600 GMT) at the Nile-side Semiramis hotel.

Western diplomats said they

expected Egypt to use the meeting mainly to keep pressure on Iraq and bolster support for Saudi Arabia. They said a big diplomatic breakthrough was unlikely.

Egypt has been leading a campaign in the Arab World to force Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait and restore the government ousted by Baghdad's Aug. 2 invasion.

Iraq, which Tuesday designated Kuwait as its 19th province, termed the Cairo meeting illegal because it was not unanimously supported by 21 Arab League members.

"The meeting which Cairo called for is illegal... because it is based on a legally invalid resolution which did not win unanimity as required under the Arab League charter," Baghdad Radio quoted Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz as saying.

Cairo says such a meeting requires only majority approval.

Arafat offers mediation

(Continued from page 1)

Point four of the peace plan referred to "the withdrawal of American and other foreign forces and their replacement with international forces under the flag of the United Nations and within their framework, without ambiguity or obscurity."

The PLO had previously demanded that Arab forces replace the U.S.-dominated troops currently deployed in the Gulf.

In Amman, the head of the PLO's Information Department Yasser Abed Rabbo, said Wednesday efforts were being made at the highest levels to reach a solution to the Gulf crisis within an Arab framework.

"Contacts between Jordan and the PLO are continuing to realise an Arab solution," he told a press conference.

"The foreign invasion for the Arab Gulf region forms a threat to the whole Arab Nation," he said and affirmed that there "is still a chance to reach a balanced political settlement" of the problem. He said the "elements for such a settlement exist in Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's initiative."

A solution to the Gulf crisis, he said, "cannot be separated from the other issues in the Middle East region and the Palestine question."

"The Americans thought they had it under control by suspending the dialogue with the PLO, but the explosion came from somewhere else they never expected," he said.

Abed Rabbo called for protecting and maintaining the Arab wealth and to utilise it to serve Arab issues.

He also called all the national blocs

in the Arab World to work in unison with the friendly powers to be able to face the foreign intervention in the region and pointed out that any American attack against Iraq "will not be a happy journey, but a complete fire that will open on several fronts."

He said the "danger should be countered by preparing for an Arab and international stand to prevent aggression and war. 'All the countries in the region will be affected if a war took place.'"

at the U.N. Wednesday, he declined to comment on what his approach would be if Iraq insisted that the Kuwaiti-Iraqi merger, further consolidated by an announcement by Baghdad Tuesday that Kuwait was Iraq's 19th province. "I do not want to do or say anything which will undermine my chances of succeeding," he said. However, Tuesday's Iraqi declaration "in a way was not extremely helpful," he said.

Officials said it was likely that Perez de Cuellar and Aziz will hold press conferences after their talks but doubted there could be a joint press conference.

In brief remarks to reporters

in Kennebunkport, Maine, U.S. President Bush told a news conference that if Perez de Cuellar could make progress in getting the Iraqis out of Kuwait, "so much the better."

But he said Saddam's resistance to comply with the resolutions leaves little hope for "fruitful negotiation" in the U.N.-sponsored search for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

The president said it was inconceivable that Perez de Cuellar will make concessions to Iraq.

"There is no room for compromise on getting the legitimate government (of Kuwait) back and the illegitimate invaders out," Bush said.

Perez de Cuellar said he had not yet heard from Bush on his mission, but added: "I am persuaded personally that President Bush will not undermine my efforts."

Brake on evacuee flow

(Continued from page 1)

150,000 before the Iraqi takeover on Aug. 2.

Reports from Tehran meanwhile indicated that hundreds of Asians — mostly Indians, Pakistanis, Sri Lankans and Bangladeshis — had passed across the border from Iraq, and the flow could pick up momentum in the next few days after news reaches those in Kuwait that the border was open.

According to a statement issued last 9,798 people arrived Wednesday.

Of the total, 5,860 were

Egyptians, 599 Filipinos, 594 Sudanese, 559 Indians, 444 Syrians, 252 Lebanese, 186 Sri Lankans, 121 Yugoslavs and 102 Yemenis.

According to Ministry of Interior Under-Secretary Saleh Hamud, who chairs a national committee in charge of the evacuating process, the number of evacuees currently in the Kingdom is 64,549 excluding Egyptians.

Hamud said evacuees staying at two camps between Rweished border post and Trebeel in Iraq number 35,000.

LETTER

U.N. and evenhandedness should go hand-in-hand

To: H.E. Mr. Javier P. de Cuellar

Your Excellency,

We take the opportunity of your visit to Jordan to enclose this appeal to you compiled by members of 'Basira-Insight' — a group of women of international origin who are wives and mothers of Jordanians.

We feel that it is our duty to speak out against the military escalation and foreign interference in the region. We are equally taken back by the swift adoption and implementation of U.N. resolutions concerning this crisis, while resolutions 242 and 338, with no less significance, have yet to be implemented twenty-three years later.

We are firm believers in the principles of the United Nations Charter and we hope that your visit to the Middle East will confirm our belief and help bring justice and stability to this region, so that our children can look forward to a future of peace and stability.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Asfour

President

BASSIRA-INSIGHT P.O. Box 6367, Amman, Jordan. An organisation founded in Jordan in 1982 to promote understanding and awareness of the Middle East

Jordan Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

Aug. 30, 1990 A

It's a media thriller in Amman

International journalists flood Jordan, with excitement, liveliness, fear and all

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Until a month ago, Amman was quite a boring place for journalists to be in; that is, for foreign journalists. All that changed literally overnight after Iraq took over Kuwait on Aug. 2. With so many international hacks around nowadays, the atmosphere is lively but also almost scary. It is as if these guys are all here waiting for something to happen, sort of expecting an eruption, a war, at any moment.

For a lot of people however, the atmosphere is exciting. For those of us who like to be in touch with current events — in this case, of course, the Gulf crisis — and who want to throw their opinions at anybody speaking a language other than Arabic, this is a good time and place to be.

Regardless of whether the atmosphere is scary or exciting, one thing is certain: Jordan is definitely the "in place" for the time being, especially that the international media representatives have access to information and enjoy more freedom of movement than in any other relevant place in the region.

For the local journalists, Jordan was the runway in the Arab World to be before the Gulf crisis erupted, particularly during and after last year's free parliamentary elections. The local press had a heyday with the new democratic era in which Jordan had entered. Journalists had something to write about everyday with no one watching over their shoulders to make sure that what was written did not "offend this government or its officials and establishments." Besides, Jordan began witnessing activities that did not exist only a short while back, and there was so much to write about. Labour disputes were coming out in the open, demonstrations and rallies taking place, union and other elections freely conducted, parliamentarians speaking out against and for everything in existence, and so on.

For those who were not in Jordan during the beginning of the democratisation era, and who arrived here only after the Gulf crisis began four weeks ago (which is the case for most of them), it is

difficult to comprehend, for instance, how Jordan's newspapers can be independent when their opinion pages carry only one point of view: Opposition to foreign intervention in the Gulf and supporting Iraq. We, in the Jordan Times for instance, are constantly being asked by so many of our international colleagues if our newspaper is simply and unreservedly pro-government, government-owned, or if we do not enjoy freedom of the press being in a "Third World" country.

It so happens that just about everyone in Jordan now has the same position on the Gulf crisis, and it is therefore no coincidence that this had to be reflected on the Jordan Times' and other newspaper's pages. And if there were any opposition in the country, the Jordan Times (we can only speak for ourselves) would report it. But it is just that such an opposition hardly exists.

Why do we have to explain ourselves? I do not really know. Why do we always have to justify ourselves to the foreign press?

But going back to our original subject about Jordan before the current crisis, one can safely assume that for many in the foreign media, there was nothing to do that would interest their readers, listeners, or TV viewers, if they operated out of here. In fact, only a few months ago, an American TV network, NBC, packed up all their equipment and closed up their office in Amman, only to come back here again with even more equipment than they had before. What surprises many, especially fellow journalists, is that the members of the foreign media do not actually observe closely what is happening in the Middle East. Otherwise, how do you explain NBC's chickening out.

Maybe they (NBC) should have been watching the developments in the region more closely before they decided to pack up and leave. After all, the Middle East is always an interesting place for the media to be in at all times. Events just pop up somehow, most of the time unexpectedly. There is an incredible lack of interest from the Western media if no "real action" is happening.

In any case, something is happening over in the region, so members of the media have arrived from every corner of the globe to cover the event, and naturally, Jordan was chosen as the base for the majority of them. Amman's good hotels are fully booked by journalists, cameramen, technicians, producers, and even famous American anchormen.

Speaking of anchormen, when ABC Nightline's Ted Koppel (who is not exactly popular in this part of the world because of his "bias against Arabs") arrived at the Intercontinental Hotel, he found no room, so he "had to" stay at the Philadelphia for a few days before he flew to Baghdad. Some, however, (without saying who) believed that Koppel purposely stayed at the Philadelphia so that his competitor at CBS, anchorman Dan Rather, staying at the Intercon, would not discover that he was in town trying to get to Baghdad before Rather did.

Excuse the digression, but it is showbiz for some in the field of news and journalism, and action increases the ratings, makes more money, and so on. The money invested by the major American networks is absolutely amazing, and beyond our poor comprehension. But business is business. CBS news budget is close to \$350 million annually, they say.

Stories to write about

With all our colleagues in town, there's quite a few stories worth writing about — about them, that is. Some are funny, some are not-so-funny, and some are a mixture of both. For example, the only Arab camera crew at CBS experienced a mishap with oil. Two Lebanese cameramen were victims of that evil product. Coming back to Amman from the Iraqi-Jordanian border one day, the Jordanian driver carrying the crew, skidded on oil and the car overturned several times, leaving all three slightly injured. Fortunately, Arabs are a resilient people, and although the oil tried to kill them, they were up on their feet the same day ready to go back to work.

From American television on to Australian TV for a moment. An Australian TV crew went to cover one of the



It is showbiz for some in the field of news and journalism, and action increases the ratings and makes more money.

demonstrations in support of Iraq in the south. Their experience ended up being a story in itself, and was broadcast on Israeli Television. Regrettably, the Australians were attacked by stone-throwers for some reason the Aussies might never get to know. According to an "eyewitness," the crew had been wearing "short trousers," the famous Aussie boots and were chewing gum at the time, and they had probably never been in this part of the world before.

An Australian who knows his people's style suggested a probable scenario that led to the terrible situation that ended up in. "They probably asked the demonstrators something like this," he said. "Why do you support a crazy maniac like Saddam Hussein, and stuck the mike in their faces for a diplomatic answer." May be after spending some more time in Jordan, our friends from down under will understand that a man chewing gum and bluntly asking people who idolise Saddam such a question in such a manner will really go under.

Whether from down under or up above, there reportedly have been separate incidents where other foreign journalists have had a rough time with demonstrators, particu-

larly in the south — namely Ma'an. The Ma'anis can be bitter if they see certain television reports filmed in Jordan and transmitted on Israeli TV. The Palestinians here, especially in the refugee camps where similar incidents have been reported, share the same feeling of bitterness when they see "unfair coverage" recorded with the King Abdallah Mosque in the background... and broadcast on Israeli Television.

These occurrences of aggression against the Western media are unfortunate, but it would be a good idea if the reporters knew where they were going and who they were seeing before venturing into unknown territory. It is, after all, safer.

Generally speaking, it has been safer for the foreign press to call the Jordan Times when they needed information. In fact, since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, the newspaper has been bombarded with phone calls and visits and questions from representatives of all types of media, including those from the "yellow press."

One of the questions thrown at the Jordan Times by a certain "yellow" newspaperman asked if Russia was blocking the Gulf of Aqaba. Other such questions

are too embarrassing to recite here.

The problem was often that the foreign press was at times (on certain days) bored with lack of news in Jordan, and decided to pack up and leave as NBC did some months ago. And it's probably better, at least for us, for "low-quality" press to leave than to dig up stories that might really start a conflict.

One must admit though that during the first week of the Gulf crisis, the Western media's reporting in general was more emotional and "sensationalised" than it is today. One American journalist in a news agency said that he brought his Afghan clothes with him to Jordan because it appeared as though war would break out at any moment and the Americans would be targets for the xenophobes here. He thought his Afghan clothes would be a good guise if he would have to escape from the country. Now that hack laughs when he talks about it.

The Gulf crisis has brought us all these journalists to Jordan, and it's too bad that we only see them during such a crisis. But I guess we just have to accept the fact about journalism that only bad news is news and that good news is no news at all.

Diary

COMPETITION TO ACCOMMODATE HACKS: The traditional hang-out for journalists when they come to Jordan is usually the International Hotel, and now it's bursting at the seams with them. So much so in fact that telephone lines there are busy 24 hours a day. But with the Gulf crisis, the hotel now faces a tough competition from the Amman Marriott Hotel. In a bid to beat the Intercon in offering hospitality to the hacks, a press office has been set up with all kinds of gadgets and screens. The Marriott does not intend to stop at just supplying tickers for the main news agencies: Reuters, Associated Press, Agence-France Presse, and Jordan's Petra News Agency. It is going as far as installing a TASS (Soviet News Agency) telex machine which will be available not only for Soviet journalists who are flocking here, but for everybody interested in monitoring Soviet policies too. According to the Marriott's management, the interest the hotel has taken in foreign journalists is already attracting attention. They say that there are already 150 members of the media staying there. The hotel is also attracting the attention of Journalists by offering them special rates for accommodation, and installing direct telephone lines for those who want them. Whether Intercon or Marriott or any other hotel in Amman, let's just hope that they (the hotels) will be around when the next Middle East crisis breaks loose.

PRESSPHOBIA JUSTIFIED: With so many members from the foreign media in town, Jordanians may have begun to suffer from "foreign pressphobia." This is not a result of the journalists' presence here; rather, the "phobia" is a function of stories being sent out by them. Unfortunately, some of these stories are either made up, acted out or downright false and misleading. A Jordanian woman called the Jordan Times earlier this week, expressing disbelief at what she had seen that day. She was at a gas station waiting to be attended to when a rented Mercedes pulled up there. A foreign TV crew got out, along with their equipment, approached "a worker they apparently had known before, dressed him up in a 'dishdash (thobe)' and a white 'hatta (kuffiyeh)' and handed him a gas hose and started filming him on camera. The woman 'informant,' after doing some research, concluded that the scene being staged was concocted to show the false image that a once-rich Kuwaiti now had to work as a poor gas pump attendant. How professional!

CHANGE OF DRESS: Incidentally, many Kuwaitis were stranded here when the Gulf crisis broke out and they couldn't go back. But it has been observed that those from Kuwait and other Gulf countries are justifiably afraid of showing where they come from. Most of them have taken off their traditional Arab dress, which they mostly wear during the summer heat, and have resorted to Western clothes instead. There is really nothing to fear in Jordan. "Gulphobia" does not really exist here," contended one veteran observer, "and pictures of Jerusalem, King Hussein or the Jordanian flag on cars from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, as was seen in one of the hotel parking lots in Amman."

PROTESTS FIZZLE OUT: In the first few days after Iraq entered Kuwait, Kuwaitis and Jordanians were active in opposing the Iraqi aggression against their small oil-rich state. A couple of demonstrations were staged by the Kuwaitis, and posters of the emir were plastered on the outside of the embassy walls. That lasted only a few days. Now there are no posters of the emir, and the voice of the Kuwaitis has not been heard since. We hope our Kuwaiti brothers are doing fine though.

BACK ON TRACK: Going back to the subject of coojuered up stories by some Western television people, another "informant," but this time a Western reporter, told us that he witnessed another acted-out "movie" being filmed at the airport, where Egyptian refugees from Iraq and Kuwait were waiting to take a flight back home. A television crew threw food on the floor and had the Egyptians pick it up and eat it while they captured the scene on film to portray that poor Egyptians were so hungry because they couldn't get anything to eat in Jordan. And the "foreign press phobia" is not justified? They ask.

THE SAGA GOES ON: The story of our international colleagues not getting it exactly right continues with an American (not necessarily from the northern part of the continent) journalist, who obviously did not do his homework before coming to Jordan to cover the Gulf crisis. He thought that in order to go to Iraq, one has to go to Israel first. He asked one member of the Jordan Times staff if it was easier to cross the bridge in order to go to Iraq. The question was made the editor blink before thinking to himself that maybe that journalist should have looked at the map of the region before coming here. The editor commented later that he did not mind providing information and answering questions to foreign journalists who needed it, but to be asked whether Israel and Iraq were neighbours was too much for him to handle.

A BITE OFF THE CUFF: There's a saying going around town amongst Jordanians: "every time Iraq shows goodwill towards allowing foreigners to leave Iraq and Kuwait, Jordan twitches with pain." More and more people are being let out of Iraq and the huge numbers are coming through Jordan. The Ministry of Supply sometime ago issued a statement comforting Jordanians that there was enough supply of food. When reports indicated that another quarter of a million refugees were arriving, the government sought the help of representatives of the people to quell the fears of shortages. So the parliament issued another statement reassuring the people that there was plenty of food in stock. If Iraq continues to express humanitarian gestures in allowing its foreign guests to leave, the Jordanian xenophobia might just turn into xeno-cannibalism. We hope not.

BINARY PREVENTIVE MEDICINE: According to a columnist at Al Dastour daily, Jordanian doctors have recently been asked for advice by American doctors on the best way to treat sun strokes suffered by American troops now stationed in the Arabian Desert. The Jordanian doctors' answer was: "the best prescription is that they (American troops) go back to their country. It is the only guarantee against sun stroke and other devastating illnesses and injuries." How true the story is, we don't really know. The prescription, however, sounds just right.

By Sana Atiyeh

Hungarian teachers relearn country's altered past

By Zoltan Vardy
Reuters

BUDAPEST — Hungarian teacher Eva Bank taught the same ideologically-skewed history to her pupils for the first quarter century of her career.

"You had to be careful to follow the text," she recalls. Now, as Hungary takes its first steps as a modern multi-party democracy after dumping communism last October and holding free elections this spring, history is being rewritten.

And teachers are having to re-learn their country's history to teach in their classrooms.

The Communist Party, which ruled alone for more than four decades after taking power in 1948, moulded history to fit its own Marxist ideology.

History books emphasised proletarian uprisings, dispa-

red Western capitalism and heralded Soviet might while distorting or ignoring events interpreted differently or regarded as far more important by less ideologically-bound historians.

"As recently as 1982, the term 'holocaust' was not printed in texts and details of what Nazi Germany did during World War II were glossed over in a few loose paragraphs.

King Stephen, who united the country in the year 1000 and was later canonised, was stripped of his sanctity and his previously-recognised place as founder of the Hungarian nation.

And the 1956 uprising against hardline Communist rule, quelled by an invasion of Soviet tanks, was branded a counter-revolution until just last year.

But Hungary has ditched the old guard, becoming a

simple republic committed to multi-party politics instead of a Communist "people's republic."

Now the centre-right coalition government in power since May refers to the uprising as a "revolution."

History books are being rewritten, and teachers in both primary and secondary schools are for the first time allowed to provide a pluralistic view of Hungary's past.

Deep-seated ideology, inadequate teaching materials and self-doubt may make the transition difficult, however.

"I am part of a generation that was raised in the Marxist spirit since infancy," said Bank, who teaches 14 to 18-year-olds in Budapest.

"We learned Marxist history in school, we read from texts written in this spirit... so when we became teachers, we couldn't deviate," she told Reuters.

The Hungarian History Association (HHA), a 123-year-old organisation of scholars, is helping to ease their uncertainty by providing seminars on historical events or eras likely to cause most problems.

This spring, a panel of experts spoke to 1,200 teachers on history since 1945, while 600 people attended a seminar on Hungary between the wars held this summer.

The week-long courses have received good reviews.

"The seminars introduce you to the newest scholarly conclusions and fill the gaps in your knowledge," says Agnes Gabor, a veteran teacher of 37 years.

But only about 20 per cent of Hungary's 10,000 primary and secondary school history teachers have taken advantage of the opportunity, which costs around 2,000 forints (\$30), or about 15 per cent of

the average monthly salary for teachers.

"Those who don't take the courses will suffer a major disadvantage," says Otto Szabolcs, director of the HHA and coordinator of the seminar programme.

"The lectures stray significantly from the present text materials and what the experts here say will be printed only in a couple of years. These courses represent the de-Marxisation of history."

Some glaring factual errors in textbooks have already been erased in editions published last autumn.

"These changes help on a very limited basis," Szabolcs says. "But they don't solve the conceptual problems. For this you need to write an entirely new book."

A panel of four distinguished Hungarian historians — including former Minister of Culture Ferenc Glaz —

began work on a history manuscript three years ago.

It is due to be completed next month, but textbooks drawn from it will not be available before 1992.

In the meantime, teachers must fill the gap from their own knowledge, from magazines for the teaching profession and from a few government-published pamphlets.

Many historians fear an over-reaction could create a situation as unfavourable as Hungary's forced reliance on Marxist ideology for 40 years.

"I hope we don't go to extremes and say that there is no such thing as Marxism in history," says Szabolcs.

"We must realise that there are different ideologies that make for unique historical approaches... and that Marxism is now just one of the many."

The Sheltered Life

By Maha Addasi

Don't get me wrong. Parents always mean well. They always do what's best for you. Although SOMETIMES, and that's underlined, and in capital letters, just sometimes, the things parents do don't seem to be to your best advantage.

The this for an example. While you're growing up, you find that your parents shelter you, then shelter you some more. Then a little more still. After that you become completely dependent on them, and you're ready to crawl into a hole, they ship you off to college.

When you get to college you're completely unprepared, except for a volume titled "Ten thousand commandments" authored by your mother.

The book as indicated by the original title, spills forth with row after rambling row of advice.

Later, as I leaf through the book of commandments I find, to my horror of horrors that one commandment is missing. One that I have lived to learn about the hard way: "Thou shalt see that the bills are paid for."

As a youngster, you don't hear the word — bill. Oh no. Your innocent ears are not to bear that four-letter word. Papa pays the bills, and mama makes sure your itty bitty little eyes never glimpse those awful numbers.

Then a month into your college days your mail-box is piled high with envelopes. You think that your best friends have finally remembered you — how naive.

The mail is not exactly from friends. The mail consists of the utility bill, the phone bill, the university fee, need I go on, and a measly post card saying: "We hope all is well, love and kisses, Mumzy, and Dadzy."

You're convinced that the post-card is no coincidence, but an action that is timed to perfection. An act that would make you shake with guilt as you sign the cheques. There are, however, other reasons for shaking, these are that the numbers are unexpected, and that you've never written a cheque before.

Day limp by and you start to adapt. You're making new friends, doing well in classes and you're feeling less guilty about the bills. It's time to visit the family.

You feel very confident. You dress differently, and your hairstyle is making the fashion statement: "I blend in well with people my age." In your mother's dictionary the hairstyle brings up more worries. All your mother is thinking is, where can she find a comb that would not sprout legs and run off when it sees your hair. While the look on your father's face says it all, "wrong package, send it back."

In a blink, four years scurry by. In a week you'll be wearing your cap and gown, and you'll scramble across the stage to snatch that expensive piece of paper. You've reached the last notch in your belt of experience. Now you are standing on your own, high-heeled feet ready to face the big bad bills.

But guess what? Your parents just can't get used to this new-found independence. You sense that they have overlooked the fact that your love of hard-Rock music has replaced that for nursery rhymes, and that to you milk moustaches are faded memories.

You shake that thought away, but then your doubts are confirmed. Because in your room there's a hole (remember the one you nearly crawled into). Right above it is a sign. On it, with your parent's handwriting is written in bold, red letters, "welcome home."

The prodigal son

"Yesterday when he was young
The taste of life was sweet upon his tongue
But now he's a little older
And his warm eyes have grown colder."

By E. Yaghi

Riyad is very tall, 6'11", thin and fair. His hair is dark blond and he has beautiful deep blue Arab eyes the colour of the Mediterranean Sea. When he was 18-year-old, he was innocent and full of energy and enthusiasm but he took life and love for granted as the younger generation sometimes tend to do.

He was nonchalant in his attitude towards everything. He was prodigal and wasted his days because he didn't appreciate them or care about them enough. Then he left his lavish style of living and went to America to study for his university degree.

In the plane, on the way to America, this exuberant young man was hurrying with excitement and anticipation to see the land of idealistic dreams. He couldn't wait for his journey to finish or the plane to land. His face flushed with expectation while his eyes shone hope of a new world, a new chance, a new life.

When the plane landed, his hopes were crushed under the wheels on the runway at JFK International Airport. His face whitened, his eyes bulged and his heart throbbed. He dismissed his state of uneasiness because he thought he was over-excited and nervous. He tried to calm the panic that crawled in his throat and clutched at his heart. By the time he got through customs, a kind security officer noticed danger written on the youth's face. All Riyad could do was mutter, "water!"

He was rushed by ambulance to one of the many hospitals in New York City. Examination in the emergency room showed his stress to be caused by a collapsed lung. The doctors felt his panic and tried to cool his nerves and said reassuringly, "Welcome to America."

Besteased by Riyad's vehement protests, the doctors nevertheless proceeded to insert a tube into his collapsed and placed him on lung-suction. Later, he had to undergo surgery. His eyes lost the shine, the hope, the excitement. Embittered by surgery but somewhat consoled by the attentive care of the hospital, he began to recover. He found himself blessed by resilience. He secured a part-time job and attended college. He began to have faith in life again.

Although a foreigner, he worked hard and was serious about his studies. He had to learn to make it on his own because his father couldn't afford to pay all his son's college expenses on his limited income. He became popular at

work and on campus. He learned to talk American and even grew accustomed to American music. His thinking began to change. One bitter cold winter's day, while his feet plowed the icy snow in front of him, his other lung collapsed. A second surgery was resented even more than the first. Riyad felt handicapped, robbed of his stamina and that years of his youth had been carved out of him.

But he was still young and resilient. He slowly recuperated and gained his strength back. He had two long surgical scars and several smaller scars from various tubes for lung suction yet he was alive and began to cherish health dearly.

When he recovered again, he went back to work and his studies, but something deep down in the bottom of his heart gnawed at him. He was homesick and the only cure he could find for homesickness was to return home for a visit.

Even though wary of a further lung collapse, Riyad braved a long journey back to Jordan. He again grew excited, impatient, and was anxious to see his family, relatives and friends. Redeemed by good fortune, he had no physical problems during his flight. He wondered how his surprise visit would strike his parents. Would they be as happy to see him as he was to see them?

On his way home from the airport he thought he remembered the fields greener and folks nicer. Everything seemed changed and strange to him.

Later after the eager anticipation and excitement had emptied out of him, Riyad was left with an American accent and faced with the sharp realization that he somehow did not think on the same wavelengths as his family and former friends. He didn't quite fit in anymore, he wasn't quite one of "them." He had learned that life wasn't all so simple or innocent at all. It took him two major surgeries, working and studying very hard to learn to appreciate and value each day. Now life wasn't to be taken for granted, but to be cherished, honoured and loved. And what of love itself? Love of family and past friends? He focused all with an awakened vision. He had been the prodigal son who took his youth, money and life for granted. He knew he had changed. He knew he was different. He became anxious to return to America and complete his studies but with a different perspective.

After he had farewell to his beloved yet seemingly transformed family, he returned to his new life, friends, work and study. Now will this young man be able to overcome the two twains in his new life and world? Will he be able to come back someday to Jordan satisfied with conditions as he finds them? Or will he try to improve his country and become an asset? Or will he decide to become part of the ever-flowing "brain drain" and dwell forever in the unobtainable land of the expatriate?

Kurosawa finally finds Japanese money for films

By Yoshiko Mori
Reuter

TOKYO — Japan's most acclaimed film director, Akira Kurosawa, suddenly has a new lease on life at the age of 80 as Japanese investors rediscover his money-making potential.

Kurosawa has announced the production of his 29th movie, *Rhapsody in August*, just a few months after the release of his last, *Dreams*. "I am very happy I could find sponsors so soon this time. I used to run around the world trying to raise cash to make movies," Kurosawa told a recent news conference.

The major reason for the new-found interest is television, the medium that sent Japan's movie industry into a tailspin in the 1960s.

The constant need for good new films to put on video and

cable television has again put Kurosawa in demand. According to a film production source, Kurosawa is planning his next film, even before *Rhapsody* in August, is fully under way.

In the heyday of Japanese films during the 1950s and the early 1960s, Kurosawa would make a picture a year.

In the process, he not only made money for Japanese studios but won many international prizes including an Academy Award in 1953 for *Rashomon*, a film about a nobleman's murder set in medieval Japan.

But after the box office failure of *Dodesukaden*, in 1970, Japanese financing dried up, and the Japanese film industry itself fell further into a slump from which it has yet to recover.

"Confronted by a shrinking movie industry, it became too risky for sponsors to invest in

aesthetic films such as Kurosawa's, which appeal to only a select audience," said Takeo Hisamatsu, an official at Shochiku Co Ltd, one of Japan's major film producers and distributors.

In 1989, 1.44 million film tickets were sold in Japan, compared with a peak of 1.13 billion in 1958.

The Japanese box office was worth 116.68 billion yen (\$778 million) in 1989 against \$5.03 billion in the United States according to Warner Bros. Japan.

For two decades, Kurosawa was shunned by Japanese producers.

Hollywood Director Steven Spielberg was behind *Dreams*, based on Kurosawa's dreams and fragments of imagination. French producer Serge Silberman put up much of the money for *Ran*, a tragedy based on Shakespeare's *King Lear*.

"The Academy Award winning *Dersu Uzala*, in 1975, was made in the Soviet Union for the Soviet Motion Studio. "In the 1950s and 1960s, Kurosawa's films caught people's heart with universal themes and beautiful scenes, but the Japanese audience started to leave him in the 1980s as his films became more and more epic and old-Japanese-culture-oriented," said one film critic.

Now, Japanese money is finally finding its way back to Kurosawa.

"The need for high-quality films has never been higher than now as the Japanese film industry has been revitalised due to the need for films for video and cable TV," Hisamatsu said.

Continued strong overseas interest in Kurosawa has also helped loosen Japanese investors' purse strings, film industry officials said.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Aug. 30

8:30 *Cosby Show*

Cosby succeeds to return his eldest son (Theo) to his apartment again, after the owner of the apartment kicks him out, because of some disturbances he made with his friends.

9:10 *Sherlock Holmes*

A famous race horse disappears, obviously by someone hoping to get rich quickly. But the kidnapper gets killed leaving no clues for Holmes.

10:20 *Movie of the Week*

Three teenagers kidnap a famous football star in Hamburg, and asked for a ransom. But the victim manages to escape and declines to turn them in because they are so young and inexperienced.

Friday, Aug. 31

8:30 *Coach*

Don invites his female colleague to dinner during which Haden raids her work section.

Now Don is accused of complicity.

9:10 *Midnight Caller*

Blame it On Midnight
Jack very cleverly and efficiently uses the resources available to him and manages to convince a drug-addict to give up this lethal habit.

10:00 *News in English*

10:20 *No More Dying Then*
The murder investigation is going around in circles. This is so because the boy John was not kidnapped in the first place.

Saturday Sept. 1

8:30 *Joint Account*

9:00 *Encounter*

9:30 *Classical Music*

10:00 *News in English*

10:20 *Feature Film*
Viva Zapata
Starring: Marlon Brando & Anthony Quinn
The true story of the 1909

Mexican popular uprising against their tyrant government. Zapata leads the rebellion and is killed.

Sunday Sept. 2

8:30 *Hay Dad*

9:10 *Documentary*

10:00 *News in English*

10:20 *Thin Air*
Rachel works for a British radio station. Her work concentrates on the activities of a real estate company.

Monday Sept. 3

8:30 *Perfect Strangers*

9:10 *Murder She Wrote*
Mr. Penroy's vacation
When two dogs dig out the bodies of two thieves, the wrong people get accused and big surprises await Mrs. Fletcher's rigorous investigation.

10:00 *News in English*

10:20 *Mystery Movie*

The Most Dangerous Match
An international chess game gets too tense for one of the contestants and a murder is committed. Colombo now has an easy suspect. How to nail down the suspect is Colombo's specialty.

Tuesday, Sept. 4

8:30 *Golden Girls*

9:10 *End Of An Empire*

10:00 *News in English*

10:20 *Martin Luther King*

Wednesday, Sept. 5

8:30 *A Family For Joe*

9:10 *Documentary*
Wild South: Under the Ice
Different scientists from different industrialised countries have conducted scientific research in the southern pole to advance their knowledge of Earth's poles.

10:00 *News in English*

10:20 *Stuka: Zulu*

B.C.



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Weekend Crossword

Edited by Herb Eitelson

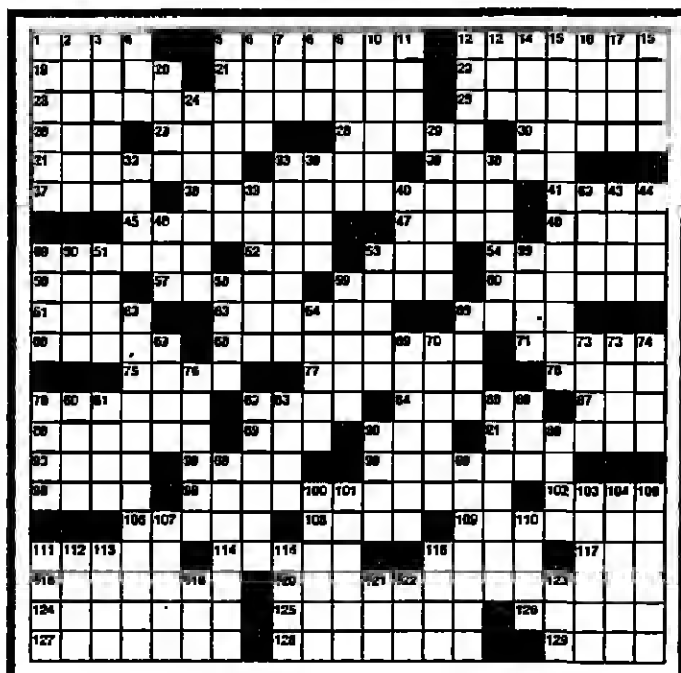
ON THE DOUBLE
By I. Miller

- ACROSS
- Whack
 - Auto stabilizer
 - Catch — (verb)
 - Enthusiastic shout
 - Mercury's winged sandals
 - Blow up
 - Paris-Islembut
 - People's pause
 - Electrical unit
 - Groeslockner
 - Robinson's "Richard"
 - Egg white
 - Take the helm
 - Castle gate
 - A few
 - Seamstress Ross
 - Critique harshly
- DOWN
- Descends swiftly
 - Artist Andy
 - Buddhist doctrine
 - Dip
 - Breastbone
 - Carcass
 - Groeslockner
 - For one
 - Yevushenko's "Bald"
 - Skull junction
 - Uphers' domain
 - 11 Tablis —
 - Conceal
 - Tempest —
 - Cagney on TV
 - Connaught
 - Test answer
 - Grin villain

- 36 Receivables, cash etc.
- 41 27 A or B D
- 45 Graduates
- 47 Arboretum item
- 48 Major or Minor
- 49 Foster's river
- 50 Slab
- 51 Agnus —
- 54 Until now
- 56 Turned gamin
- 57 Carter's dad
- 58 Bean town?
- 60 Walks like a crab
- 61 Dew unit
- 62 Regales
- 63 Lux emporium
- 68 Undo
- 69 Black Hills municipality

- 71 Triap
- 75 Defeat
- 76 Cuss
- 78 Confederate soldier
- 79 His Earlard
- 82 Br. gun
- 84 Torch lob
- 85 Break the —
- 86 Where fly balls are shopped
- 89 Third degree?
- 90 A Khan
- 91 Newscaster patron
- 92 Beginning
- 94 Wimbledon winner
- 95 Blatantly
- 96 Blatantly
- 98 Blood: pret.

- 99 Br. press
- 102 Mex. food
- 103 Cuss
- 108 Does garden work
- 109 Tost
- 110 Liguini e.g.
- 114 Harker (tor)
- 115 Collector's care
- 117 Kind of chart
- 118 Dialogue from the saddle
- 120 "The Tale of a Tub" author
- 124 Talk, almost
- 125 Street crosses
- 126 Talk, almost
- 127 Bears witness
- 128 Eyeball
- 129 Tokyo formerly



Last Week's Cryptograms

- The author remained in a dull little room, but his mind had the knack to sail to the moon and back.
- If there are halls of fame for almost everyone, why not for our housewives?
- Nice cute bear cub are good little boy's delicious sugar candy cane.
- Hostess said she invited favorite bunch for brunch.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. YMMR CUAYUCBOY VMPUE VUC KUOEDTRRI
- STAB DAMP GLOEF GOBBLE GI SLA MYE
- CSUAK BMEFTL —By Lois H. Jones
2. XOPQ TRAUWAP5 OGOKWAW EBZGYPE
- SYOPOU SZ MZRTNSAK GYMY MONEYS
- ABXALLBAK. —By Barbara J. Ragg
3. OCISZOSTAX, FBNSA EGWRSISA
- MBAABYRH EG BELOMEAAA VOLW FBTRZ
- ZRMARNLOBC. —By Gordon Miller
4. ZPOUSD AI UZK WILDGAME LDOA ONXMEOP
- CZPADX COW SIMP IN SMIP NIX GZPWOK
- WMFPDX. —By Ed Haddleton



إلى من أنت

Hollywood's tough guy trades gun for pen

By Philippa Neave

NEW YORK — Issur Danielovitch was born on Dec. 9, 1916 in the small town of Amsterdam, north of New York, the only son of poor, illiterate Russian immigrants. His father arrived in 1908 at Ellis Island, the clearing house for millions of immigrants who came to the United States with nothing in their pockets and a head full of dreams.

Danielovitch and his six sisters grew up in abject poverty with their father, a ragman, barely scraping together enough money to feed the family and often spending it on alcohol. Sometimes the boy had to steal food.

Seldom has the expression "from rags to riches" seemed so appropriate: the boy who made his dreams come true is Kirk Douglas, the tough guy who could teach Rambo a trick or two and a Hollywood legend who starred in more than 75 movies.

Aging with grace is not easy, especially when photographers follow you every footstep, but that's another battle Douglas has won. On a recent visit to New York to promote his latest book, the 74-year-old actor looking trim and fit held the audience of a television talk show spellbound with his wit and charisma.

He seems to enjoy remembering the hard days of his youth, when in a house full of women he yearned in vain for his father's approval. "My father was never able to express his feelings or give me that pat on the back," Douglas recalled. "He was very strong and imposing but he always left me at home with my sisters." In a desperate

attempt to get his father's attention, the boy decided to stand up to that awesome figure: "In a rare moment when father was home, we were all sitting around the table drinking tea out of a glass, the way the Russians do. I looked at my father and the more I looked, the bigger and bigger he seemed, the smaller and more insignificant I felt. I watched him slurping the tea through a piece of sugar and suddenly I took a teaspoon of hot tea from my glass and flicked it straight into his face. I was prepared to die. It was the bravest thing I've done in my life, braver than anything I've ever done in the movies!"

Ever since he can remember, Douglas wanted to be an actor. "I lived in a dream world," he said. "I had to escape the world I was living in." With gritty determination he paid his way through college, working as a waiter and doing odd jobs in hotels. Eventually, he was admitted into the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York, may be the country's most famous drama school. After that came more struggling — trying to get parts and being turned down.

"That's the pathetic side of our profession: the rejections. They're so shattering, so devastating. The hurt of it never leaves you... It's so humiliating. It doesn't leave you even if you become a star," Douglas wrote in his best-selling autobiography titled *The Ragman's Son*.

"I consider myself a failure," he quips, half seriously. "My ambition was to be an actor on the stage. I even turned down the first offer of a part in a movie."

As his career was slowly

taking shape Douglas married Diana Dill, his sweetheart at the academy, and became the father of Michael, the first of four sons and now an award-winning actor and producer. "I simply had to go to Hollywood. I had a family to feed!" he exclaimed with a laugh.

His first screen-test was torture — "I was nervous. I was a stage actor, used to dealing with people, not technicians and equipment. A camera can be a really frightening thing" — but it opened the way to stardom. Yet the ragman's son turned millionaire never forgot his humble origins. In fact he bated Issur, the poor, scared boy. "Whenever Kirk got weak, Issur would get stronger," he noted in his autobiography.

Asked whether he would change anything if he could live his life over again, Douglas smiles with indulgence: "Sure, there are many things in all our lives we would do differently, but at least I lived my life my own way. I was always a bit of a maverick."

In the movie business Douglas is known for his quiet generosity and for helping young artists. He says he also got some help, but admits to having made some enemies in this highly competitive field. "I think it's important to have certain enemies," he notes. "Hated is a very strong emotion, it can even be stronger than love, but it depends on how you use it."

Douglas had another son, Joel, before divorcing Diana Brill and then had two more, Peter and Eric with his second wife, a French woman named Anne Buydens, to whom he has remained happily married for 36 years. Trying to be a good father while keeping up



At 74, macho screen hero Kirk Douglas embarks on a literary career.

with the frantic pace of filming all over the world was a challenge. "Many families have the same problems if the father is a travelling salesman or working on Wall Street 12 hours a day," he argues. Thinking of his own distant father, he adds: "I tried to be a different father to my kids. During the summer vacations, I always took them where I was shooting on location. They started travelling at an early age and have been with me all over the world."

"I always advised my sons never to go into show business. They all have, but they function well; they're good at what they do. If I'd known Michael was going to be so famous, I would have been nicer to him!" he quips, a mischievous sparkle lighting up his grey-blue eyes.

Kirk Douglas has his own production company, which

has scored many successes. "I set up the company in order to participate in the creative process; I try to find things that entertain, but underneath make a statement," he explains. He named the company Bryna, after his mother whom he adored. She was over fazed by her son's tremendous success and remained the caring, down-to-earth woman she had always been. "I once called her, I was so excited," Douglas recalls. "I said 'Mother, I just won a \$1 million contract! She didn't comment. All she said was: 'So, you were looking a little thin in your last picture.'"

Although he continues to produce and make films, Douglas has discovered a new passion: writing. Encouraged by the success of his autobiography he just published his first novel, *Dance With the Devil*. "I knew it was a

risk, but I felt a compulsion to do it," he said.

In the autobiography "I needed to empty my guts," he added. "Everyone should write their own biography. Often we don't know where we are going because we don't know where we have been. The facts are out the most important part, it's the emotions, the perceptions and learning from them." Writing a novel was different: "You can say many more meaningful things when you're hiding behind a character."

The actor is already working on a third book but won't talk about it "because it's bad luck. What I find most amazing, almost magical about writing is when you start, it can go off in a different direction, as if the character has taken over with a life of his own. It happens a lot in acting too." — World News Link.

Circus Archaos — modern mix of Mad Max and Monty Python

By Lars Foyen

Reuter

STOCKHOLM — Puok jugglers wearing leather and chains. A trapeze artist hanging from a fork-lift truck. Poaring motorcycles and chain saws. Diesel tunes and live rock music.

The circus, 1990s style, has come to town.

A visitor to the world of France's Circus Archaos, whose "last show on Earth" has been a smashing success with audiences in Europe, the United States and Australia, is in for a cultural shock.

For although Archaos has many of the usual circus acts — clowns, acrobats, jugglers, trapeze artists, fire eaters and contortionists — other standbys have been daringly cast aside.

Archaos has replaced horses with motorcycles, tigers with chain saws, and elephants with fork-lift trucks. Instead of glittering costumes some of the performers sport leather and chains.

The show, which visited Stockholm in the course of a European tour, is a non-stop series of happenings. Out of the blue, for example, a lyrical pantomime by a beautiful female contortionist is interrupted by two punks with shaven heads duelling with chain saws.

"The parody of Archaos is a sight for sore eyes," said Swedish national daily Dagens Nyheter. "The sensation of all sensations," exclaimed Stockholm's Svenska Dagbladet.

Critics hail Archaos as a revolution of the circus art, an adaptation of the centuries-old circus tradition to modern industrial society.

"The most important thing is not the tricks we do but the idea behind them. Life has two faces — one is very light, one is dark. We want to show both — the absurdity of life," said acrobat Pascal Voinet.

One Copenhagen critic described the show as a mixture of the British Monty Python television comedians and the Australian Mad Max movies about good and evil motorcycle punks battling for supremacy in a world ravaged by nuclear war.

Their acts are ironical and amusing rather than technically challenging, but the absence of any safety nets adds a sharp edge to the fun.

"We are not here to commit suicide. We practise all the time and know our tricks quite well," insisted Voinet, 33, wearing heavy makeup and dressed out rascally in short leather jacket,

black G-string and boots. Nevertheless, the troupe often suffers injuries.

"I'm taking people to hospital all the time. That is a tradition. And we often have problems with the authorities who think our show is too dangerous, that there is too much fire. That is another tradition," said Isabelle Sage. Sage, an acrobat who broke her leg last year, has retired from the ring to become responsible for what she calls the group's "quality of life."

Archaos was created by Frenchman Pierrot Bidon in 1986, with the original troupe comprising 12 people who doubled as performers, technicians and mechanics.

Since then, the circus has grown to 120 people from all around the world split into similar troupes who are constantly on separate tours and each fill their 1,000-spectator tents about 140 times a year, Sage said.

"We are most popular in England where people have the ability to laugh at themselves. They appreciate our special brand of humour," she said.

The members of Archaos travel and live in trucks and mobile homes most of the year. Voinet, Sage and many of the others bring their families and children along.

The circus cook, with pork cutlets tied around his waist, also performs in the show, crushing a baked potato with his bare hands. "We are really very organised," said Voinet. "Pierrot is the big boss but everybody who wants to take responsibility does so. It all comes natural, like in a big family."

Wages are modest, with performers making about 7,500 francs (\$1,200) a month in addition to room, board and petrol.

Their breakthrough was at the 1987 arts festival in Avignon.

They were so successful on the highly competitive "fringe" of the Edinburgh International Festival last year that they were invited to perform throughout the three weeks of this year's festival — this time as part of the official programme.

"In the beginning audiences consisted of young people who looked like us. Now all kinds of people come to see us," said Voinet, spokesman of Archaos and "second boss" under Bidon. Voinet has his own theories about why Archaos is so successful.

"What we want we find. What we say we do. Everything is very important, but we don't care. It is very simple."

American choreographers new Romeo and Juliet for Chinese

By Charlene L. Fu
The Associated Press

PEKING — A new Romeo and Juliet ballet choreographed by an American for the Central Ballet of China will premiere in Peking next month, the company has announced.

Norman Walker, who has worked with the company before, said he spent more than seven years on the new ballet, said to be the first remake of

the classical ballet in about a decade.

He arrived in Peking and began working with the dancers just seven weeks ago. The ballet is to open on Sept. 2 as the first event in China's Asian Games Arts Festival.

The Chinese dancers, trained in the Russian tradition with its tight spins and limited use of space, had to learn to do big, complicated lifts for Walker, who has choreographed more than 150

dances.

"I used the classical tradition, which they know very well, in a different way — different rhythms, different arms," said Walker, who teaches dancing at Adelphi University in New York.

He also had to break the Russian tradition of presentational dancing to the audience.

"I've had to get them away from that to dancing for each other, to each other," Walker

said, adding, "Romeo and Juliet... is a personal ballet."

The company gave a nearly flawless performance of the ballet's first act for reporters, evoking all the beauty and emotion of the drama.

In a first for the troupe, Walker put together three casts, with each dancer learning three parts. Previously, a dancer danced only one part — if anyone was ill, the performance was cancelled. The three casts will dance on a

rotating basis for the eight scheduled performances.

Walker, said he encountered very little problems in teaching Chinese dancers a European ballet.

"It's a story about human beings, about relationships, about two young lovers — that's everybody," he said.

Mary Yung Kantor, a longtime patron of the dance company, expects the ballet to be well-received by Chinese audiences.

The Chinese are a romantic people basically. (The story's) very identifiable — the way the families don't allow them to marry," said Kantor, president of Simarka Productions Inc. in New York, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Shanghai.

The Central Ballet of China, the national ballet company, was founded in 1959 and has about 200 dancers.

France injects new life into circus world

By Clare Pedrick

CHALONS-SUR-MARNE, France — High up in the Big Top Montana Miller dives off the platform. Hanging from her trapeze, she swoops through the air for the link up with her partner: They miss. The 18-year-old girl takes a breath-taking plunge and goes plummeting down into the safety net. She bounces unhurt. A few words with her coach, Daniel Vatan, and she is climbing back up the ladder for another try. Again, the pitch is not quite right and she takes a fall. Undaunted, she tries again. It will be another hour and several more tries before the Californian girl gets it right.

For Montana, and 69 other youngsters studying at this unusual school in France, such bumps and knocks are all in a day's work. While others of their own age are studying to become accountants, lawyers and doctors, these students are learning the skills of fire-eating, tight-rope walking and juggling. Their ambition is to make a career in the circus.

The Circus Arts School at Chalons-sur Marne, a picturesque country town 150 kilometres from Paris, is Europe's main breeding ground for new talent. Founded in 1985 with sizeable grant from French Minister of Culture Jack Lang, the centre has quickly grown into the best equipped in the Western World — and the only one to rival the most famous circus

school in Moscow.

Every year, hundreds of young hopefuls aged between 16 and 23 apply for a place on the four-year diploma course. The 70 lucky ones are drawn from all corners of the world — the current enrollment includes students from the U.S., West Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Spain. Very few come from traditional circus families. One budding trapeze artist was a housewife before she gave that up for the thrill of banging by her knees 30 metres up in the air. Another worked on his father's flower farm in Normandy before deciding to carve himself a new career as a bicycle acrobat.

One thing they all have in common is determination. Training for circus life required enormous reserves of patience and self-discipline. The students also have to be in peak physical condition to avoid making dangerous mistakes. Training for every circus act, from juggling to horse-riding and from trapeze work to clowning, is based on hours of working out and exercises to make the joints and body supple.

"We're looking for young people who have the physical aptitude and a creative imagination, people with a flair for improvisation," said the school's director Patrick Baume. "But we're also looking for people who are extremely resolute and determined. They have to be able to undergo hours and hours of practice, repeating the same

thing over and over again until they get it right. When they fall, they must be able to pick themselves up and try again — they have to be very stubborn."

Teaching the skills of the ring is a staff of 60. Some, like Daniel Vatan who used to be with an Italian circus, are themselves retired performers. Others still work in the circus but offer their help on a part-time basis. There are still more drawn from the world of theatre, dance, music and sports — one of the trapeze coaches is former French trampolining champion Arnaud Thomas.

Prospects for a life in the circus have never been better, it seems. After a decline lasting several decades, this ancient entertainment form is enjoying a revival, and France is spear-heading the comeback. "In the hey-day of the circus, at the beginning of the century, every reasonable-sized town had its own permanent Big Top," said Baume. "Then, with time, audiences dwindled and many of them were torn down or converted into music halls."

That was the fate of the circus at Chalons-sur-Marne. The stables were ripped out and the sawdust arena was covered to make a cabaret stage. Today, thanks to a \$2.5 million annual state subsidy, the old Big Top is back in business. Elsewhere, scores of similar private schools have been launched. The country now has at least 100 estab-

lished troupes with dozens more than spring up in the summer and follow the crowds along the tourist routes.

The circus revival in France is due in a large part of Socialist Culture Minister Jack Lang who elevated the circus to the status of theatre. He poured millions into its development, setting up a National Association for the Development of Circus Arts. This organisation grants state funds to innovative troupes and regulates the industry's publicity, financial affairs and operating standards. Many French schools now offer classes in the circus arts and there is talk of making it available as a subject for the baccalaureat — a grueling exam at the end of the secondary education cycle. Circus activities are even offered in some French prisons.

Students at the Chalons-sur-Marne school pay only a nominal registration fee; tuition, and in most cases living expenses, are covered by Culture Ministry grants.

Here, pupils are instructed in the time-honoured skills of the ring, but the face of the circus is changing, say school staff. "The skills we teach are the same, but the way they are subsequently put into practice is very different," said Baume. "Before, when the circus arts were handed down from the parents to their children, there was no possibility of it changing or developing — it was a closed environment, rooted in the old tradi-

tion. Today's circus generation comes from the outside. They have new ideas about costume, music and choreography."

In France, the most outstanding example of the new-style circus is Archaos — a troupe launched by Pierre Pilot-Bidon who gave up his job as a farmer in Brittany, bought a caravan and left for a life on the road, recruiting as he went. His brand of circus is a zany and highly original mixture of slapstick and burlesque, richly peppered with elements of modern life: cars, motor-bikes, exploding television sets, punk, rock music, modern dance and street language. In just five years, Archaos has won itself an international reputation.

Another innovative troupe, a gypsy equestrian circus called Zingaro regularly tours abroad. Other unusual groups include an all-female troupe and a circus-boat that tours the southwest coast of France in the summer months.

One factor that contributed to sounding the death-knell of the old-style circus was public opposition to the use of animals like tigers, lions and elephants. "Rightly or wrongly, the animal rights groups put a stop to a lot of that kind of circus act and these days, there are fewer and fewer animal trainers in the business," said Baume. "Another consideration is the fact that keeping animals costs a great deal of money."

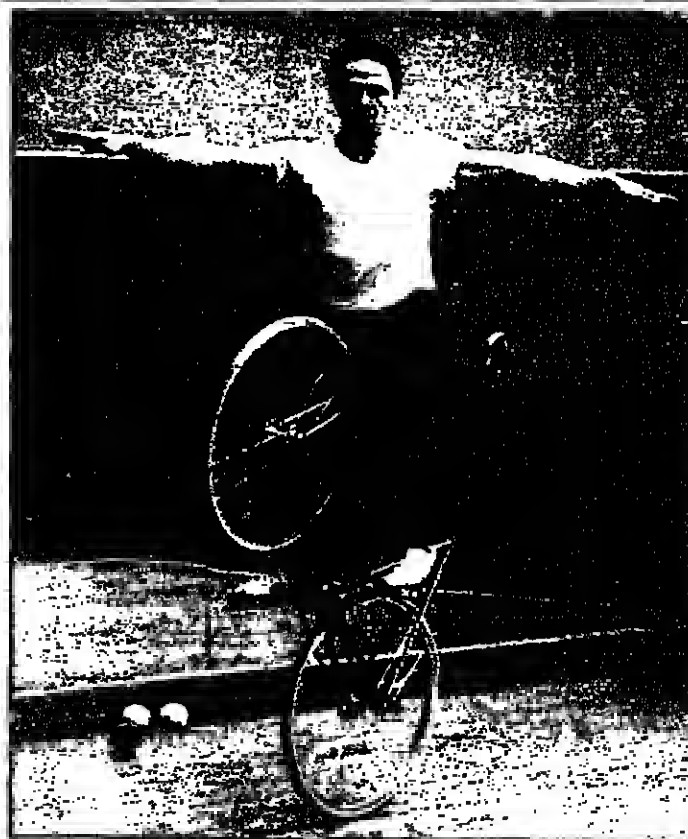
The only animals in this

school are four horses, kept at a small farm 2 kilometres from the main site. Sooner or later, all the pupils will learn all the basic tricks on these horses which are old hands at the circus game. In the best of traditions, they have long flowing manes and coats that are piebald, skewbald and dalmatian.

Every student is expected to try the main disciplines before specialising. "In their first year they do everything — it gives us a chance to assess their aptitude, but it's also important for later on," said Baume. "It helps a lot in a troupe if the various members understand something about each other's job."

The students' first encounter with a tight-rope is a wire stretched 1 metre off the ground. For those who make good progress, the height is gradually raised up to 7 metres. The school has its own infirmary, to treat twists and sprains, but safety is a fundamental part of the training, and everyone learns how to rig up safety nets and tie proper knots.

In another part of the building, in a small cinema hall, pupils can watch videos of professionals and learn by watching recordings of their own performances. An annex houses a workshop for making sets, props and costumes. In the annual Christmas show staged for the public by the final-year students, the juniors provide the back-up,



A new generation of circus artists from many different countries is training at an innovated school near Paris.

of the ropes and manning the ticket booths.

Last December, the schools' first batch of 13 graduates all found jobs. Most of them went to join Pilot-Bidon's Archaos. Two went to Canada and a third joined a troupe in Switzerland.

In one of the centre's two sky-lit training rooms, fourth-year student Bertrand Duval — who already looks the part with his clown-like hairstyle — is patiently practising doing handstands on the handlebars of his bicycle. He working the lights, taking care

has reached the stage where he can now do entire circuits without so much as a wobble.

Next door, 18-year-old German student Mario Fisher is juggling skittles, in time to rock music, blaring out from a tape recorder. "When I was in Germany, I did a bit of circus work but it was very basic," he said. "This is completely different, it is much more serious and professional. There is so much choice that it's hard to know what to do next. I've never had so much fun in my life" — World News Link.

Researchers prove normal gene can suppress cancer growth in lab

WASHINGTON (AP) — Researchers report showing that malignant growth is stopped by inserting a normal gene into test tube colonies of colon cancer cells.

The experiment could lead to finding natural protein to switch off cancer.

In a study published in the journal *Science*, scientists from the Johns Hopkins Oncology Centre in Baltimore report that they have proven that a gene called P53 is able to prevent colon cancer tumors from growing in a laboratory culture.

P53 is one of a group of what is known as suppressor genes because they appear to act as a brake on cancer formation, said Suzanne Baker, a Hopkins Cancer researcher.

Suppressor genes have been found to be either missing or mutated in the cells of several types of solid cancer tumors, she said.

"What we assume is that the fact that a normal copy of the P53 gene is missing in the these cell is important in the formation of the cancer," she said.

To test that idea, the researchers added the P53 gene to a colony of colon cancer cells growing in culture. The result, said Baker, is that the cancer growth "switched off."

"If you put the normal copy (of the gene) back into these cells, the cells stop growing. They just won't grow anymore," she said.

Baker said inserting the normal P53 seems to reestablish the normal regulation of cell proliferation. The unregulated division of cells is a primary characteristic of cancer.

Researchers at Hopkins and at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland also put the P53 into benign colon tumors and found that these tumors, which have the gene, were not affected. The researchers additionally put a mutated P53 gene into colon cancer cells colonies and found that the abnormal gene did not suppress the cell growth.

These experiments, said Baker, verified that it was the

action of the normal gene that prevented the cancer from growing.

"the concept demonstrated in this study is extremely important," said Dr. John S. MacDonald, director of the Temple University Cancer Centre in Philadelphia. "They have reached the genetic root of the problem of malignancy."

MacDonald said that P53 is missing or mutated in a several types of cancer — including brain, bone, breast and adrenal carcinoma — and that the Hopkins study may also apply to those cancers.

Other researchers, also working with laboratory cultures, proved earlier that restoring other suppressor genes can block growth of cancers of the eye and of the kidney. But the Hopkins study is the first to demonstrate the effect of a suppressor gene on one of the major cancer killers.

Colon cancer, which kills about 60,000 people annually in the United States, is second in mortality to lung cancer.

Baker cautioned that despite the success of the laboratory experiment, it does not prove that colon cancer can be treated by inserting a normal gene into a patient. This may never be possible, a Hopkins statement said.

MacDonald said that such genetic treatment for cancer has a fundamental problem in the delivery of the normal gene.

"You would have to put that suppressor gene back into everyone of those cancer cells," said MacDonald. "If you miss a cell, it could grow and still kill the patient."

Instead, said Baker, the research may enable scientists to find the mechanism that P53 uses to block cancer growth.

In the field of genetic cancer therapy, he said, the study can be compared to the Wright Brothers airplane, which proved that airplane flight is possible. The Hopkins study, said MacDonald, proves that cancer growth can be controlled by genetic manipulation.

Margarine is not so great for cholesterol after all

By Daniel Q. Haney
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Cholesterol-conscious people have long been saying, "hold the butter." Now a study suggests they should spread the margarine sparingly too.

The study found that hardened vegetable fat, a primary ingredient of margarine and shortening, raises cholesterol in the blood. It might even be worse than saturated fat, the long-recognized demon in the war on unhealthy eating.

Experts cautioned that mar-

garine is still a healthier choice than butter. However, the new research contradicts the widely held belief that the vegetable fats that margarine contains are harmless to the heart.

The study was conducted in the Netherlands by Dr. Ronald P. Mensink and Martijn B. Katan of the Agricultural University in Wageningen. It was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The study raises questions about trans fatty acids, which make margarine and shortening hard so they can be used for baking, frying and spread-

ing. About a quarter of the fat in a typical stick of margarine is trans fatty acids.

While such fats can occur naturally, most are made when food companies add hydrogen to polyunsaturated and monounsaturated vegetable oils. Food labels list these as hydrogenated oils.

The study found that unlike saturated fat, trans fatty acids have a double-pharred harmful effect: they increase the bloodstream's supply of low-density lipoprotein, or LDL, the "bad cholesterol" that contributes to fatty buildups in the arteries. And they

lower levels of high-density lipoprotein, or HDL, the "good cholesterol" that protects the body from cholesterol's harmful effects.

Dr. Scott Grundy, a top cholesterol expert at the University of Texas Southwestern Centre at Dallas, called this "a combination of detrimental effects that is particularly worrisome."

Dr. Edward A. Emken of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Research Service in Peoria, Illinois, said the study should be repeated to check the effects of lower doses of the fat. But he said the re-

search "has implications in terms of the U.S. diet, and it certainly shouldn't be taken lightly."

In a statement, the International Food Information Council, an industry group, said, "people should refrain from making any dietary changes based on the results of this one study in which subjects consumed extremely high levels of trans fatty acids for a relatively short time."

The study was conducted on 59 men and women who were randomly assigned to eat three different diets for three weeks each. In each diet, 40

per cent of the total calories came from fat. But they varied in their levels of monounsaturated fats, trans fatty acids and saturated fats.

Their average cholesterol levels were 172 on the monounsaturated fat diet, 182 on the trans fatty acid diet and 193 on the saturated fat diet.

However, many experts believe that the ratio of total cholesterol to HDL is a more important sign of potential heart disease than is total cholesterol alone. And in this regard, trans fatty acids came off worse than saturated fat.

Experts test genetically engineered rabies vaccine

WACHAPREAGUE, Virginia (AP) — Researchers have begun spreading bait across an uninhabited, isolated island off Virginia's eastern shore to test a genetically engineered rabies vaccine on raccoons.

"There are no figures to show how much money we spend every year to ensure that people don't contract rabies," said Dr. Suzanne Jenkins, assistant state

epidemiologist with the Department of Health. "If we can control rabies in the raccoon population, we will have come a long way in handling rabies in pets."

The 26 researchers put out 4,000 baits, small pieces of soft plastic tubing treated with fish oil to give them a pungent aroma.

Warren B. Cheston, associ-

ate director of the Wistar Institute that helped develop the vaccine, said the liquid vaccine is placed inside the tubing and the ends sealed.

"Then the bait is covered with a crab slurry — crab parts that have been left out for awhile — to attract the raccoons," he said. As the raccoons chew on the plastic, the vaccine is released into their mouth.

Cheston said the resea-

chers from the Philadelphia-based institute would leave the baits out for 10 days before picking up any leftovers.

Some of the animals will be caught in live traps and tested to see if the vaccine made them produce antibodies to fight the rabies virus.

Ms. Jenkin said the testing would continue for about a year. She estimated the raccoon population on Parra-

more Island at about 400. Some will die naturally during the course of the year and become subjects of autopsies.

Using genetic engineering techniques, Wistar took from the rabies virus a minute piece of genetic material that would induce formation of antibodies, and grafted that fragment onto the second virus.

The second virus is that harmless vaccinia virus, used in

smallpox vaccine.

The vaccine already is being used in Europe and Canada to halt the spread of rabies in the fox population. In this country, the biggest carrier of rabies is the raccoon.

Robert Miller of the U.S. Department of Agriculture said that if the test of Parra-more Island proves out, the agency will have to approve a mainland rules for the vaccine.

Many food allergies may be psychosomatic — study

BOSTON (R) — The power of suggestion rather than food sensitivity may explain why many people appear to be allergic to many everyday foods, according to a new study.

The findings, published in a recent issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, are expected to be a blow to a group of physicians known as clinical ecologists who argue that many Americans are allergic to a variety of foods,

additives, pesticides and pollutants.

Clinical ecologists try to confirm the allergic reaction using a test called "symptom provocation," where extracts of various substances are injected into patients to see if they develop one of a wide variety of symptoms.

The testing of 18 patients was done by seven unnamed physicians each of whom "had at least five years' experience with the technique," accord-

ing to research scientists led by Dr. Don L. Jewett of the University of California at San Francisco.

The physicians used volunteers who had responded well to the technique and were allegedly allergic to at least one substance, such as chocolate, wheat, bakers' yeast, potatoes, alcohol, apples, milk, corn, beef, oranges and chicken.

Neither the patients nor the doctors knew who was in-

jected with an extract that was supposed to produce an allergic reaction and who a harmless salt water solution.

Only 27 per cent of the volunteers actually injected with extracts reported feeling different but 24 per cent injected with salt water reported allergic reactions including headache, depression, fatigue and memory loss.

"The symptoms were real and patients did experience them," Jewett said. "But our

findings show no correlation between these reactions and food substances that were injected into the study participants. A more likely explanation is that the reactions were stress-induced."

The work was financed in part by two medical societies that promote the symptom provocation technique, the American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy and the American Academy of Environmental Medicine.

A spokeswoman for the environmental medicine group, Dr. Sherry Rogers, characterized the study as "deeply flawed," and said Jewett and his colleagues "don't have the faintest idea what they're talking about."

The Jewett team, however, said the rules for the test were developed in conjunction with both the proponents and the critics of the symptom provocation technique.

New centre aims at prolonging healthy life

By Philippa Neave

NOVATO, USA — Business is booming in a whole new branch of the cosmetic industry, with products that promise to wipe out the ravages of time, get rid of wrinkles, firm up the skin and restore youth. Celebrities are leading the way, unabashedly re-emerging into the limelight looking 20 years younger after a complete make-over.

The latest obsession with staying young in America and elsewhere has turned into a real growth industry where quackery occupies a large place. Yet it cannot obscure the serious scientific and medical research that has been conducted over the past five years not only to determine the causes of aging, but also to learn how to prevent the scourges of old age: hearing and memory loss, arthritis, heart disease and high blood pressure, to name but a few.

Medical advances and population control in Western nations have caused the population to age, which explains the current preoccupation with fending off the aging process and also raises difficult questions. By the year 2050, close to 23 per cent of the American population will be over 65. "Now 12 per cent of the population is over 65, absorbing 33 per cent of the nation's health care dollars. Does that mean that by 2050, over 60 per cent of the health budget will go to old people?" asks Mary McEachron, administrative director of the Buck Centre for Research in Aging, a promising new \$25 million research institution to be built in Novato, just outside San Francisco.

"All over the world, we are seeing a continued prolongation of life, not a continued prolongation of health — the years of disability are extending," adds McEachron. The aim of the new centre, the first of its kind, is to study ways to extend the "health-span" of old people. The plan is to create a multi-discipli-

nary research centre to study how to treat, but more important, how to prevent, common afflictions, and also the sociological and economic implications of having a large elderly population. The centre, designed by the world-famous architect I.M. Pei, is to open in 1993 and will operate on an annual \$4.5 million budget provided by a private foundations. "The centre is intended to be an international resource. Researchers will come from all over the world," McEachron notes.

The aim is also to train a whole new generation of gerontologists and geriatricians. "The demographic revolution has caught us by surprise. There is now a terrible lack of people trained in geriatrics," she explains. "Geriatrics is not viewed as an exciting field by doctors. Unfortunately, medical science has traditionally been interested in the acute, life-threatening conditions; chronic disabilities have not been looked at."

Robert G. Allen, senior researcher at a New York institute, agrees: "Gerontology is a very young field, at this point, we have only reached the descriptive stage," he said. Needs are pressing. Some 1.7 million Americans currently live in nursing homes; by 2040 their number could soar to 6 million, which would cost an estimated \$139 billion.

Allen and other scientists have welcomed the creation of the California centre, pointing to the need to pool information obtained from research into such diverse fields as genetics, ophthalmology, nutrition, osteopathy, cardiology and specific age-related illnesses such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. Says 37-year-old Allen: "We are now ending what I call the descriptive phase. We've described everything that can go wrong, it is now time to combine all these things to see what we can do."

But he, along with other experts say there is a lot indi-



With no place to go, but a home for the elderly, 65-year-old Florence Workman (left) finds life hardly worth living.

viduals can do to ensure they avoid or lessen ailments that have come to be regarded as almost inevitable in older people. "Most people rebel against childhood diseases yet we all accept that old people get arthritis and go senile. But these are diseases, it is not normal aging," says McEachron.

Sometimes all it takes is common sense, according to Allen: "Do everything in moderation," he cautions. "If you are over 40, you should exercise moderately, you should not be overweight or go on crash diets. Anything done in excess won't be beneficial. In my opinion, people who go out and jog more than 5 miles a day might as well smoke a couple of packets of cigarettes."

A leading researcher in the causes of aging, Allen says attitude plays a key role: "People who remain mentally active remain alert, people who remain physically active may have arthritis but they won't be bed-ridden. For those who are it is usually not a case of the disease conquering them, but that they have allowed it to progress that

far... You may slow down, but you should never stop."

Part of the problem is that contrary to other cultures where old people are sought out for their wisdom and go on living with their families, in most Western societies they are viewed as a burden to be disposed of in special homes where they feel bored and abandoned, Allen says.

60 and 87, knows all about the problem. "Some withdraw completely. They have no interest in anything, it is very difficult to motivate them," she says. "The other day we had 10 tickets for a show, but we couldn't get them to go."

Florence Workman, a resident at St. Zilda's, is 65 and she clearly remembers the glorious days back in the

"If you are over 40, you should exercise moderately, you should not be overweight or go on crash diets. Anything done in excess won't be beneficial. People who go out and jog more than 5 miles a day, might as well smoke a couple of packets of cigarettes."

"Quite often they will let themselves become senile because it is an easier option than facing what they they regard as an unhappy situation."

Maureen Francis who has been working at St. Zilda's home for the elderly in New York for 18 years, looking after 40 women aged between

1950s when she was a ballet dancer with a company that toured the world. She was in the first production of the mega-hit stage show *Oklahoma!* and lived the life of a star.

"I had a name in those days, and a beautiful apartment in New York," she recalls, her eyes lost in the distance.

Workman fell ill with can-

cer six years ago when she was still teaching dance. All her savings went into paying her hospital bills. She lost everything. "She has been living in the spartan but clean home for the past two years. "Compared to the hospital, this is Buckingham Palace," she says. Unmarried and childless, Workman has no family except two sisters, both "very well to do," she says, but they never visit, write or call. "People shy away from this sort of place. I'm lonely all the time, but by now, I'm used to it."

Workman's monthly \$732 bill is paid by the state and she receives \$89 a month in pension money, which does not allow for much. "I get on well with the others," she says, "but there is nothing to talk about, I don't know why, they have nothing to say. Being put away like this, is quite a hard blow, you know."

How the elderly see themselves and how they are perceived by society will be an important part of the Buck Centre research. Its declared objective is to improve "the status, self-esteem and quality of life of older individuals, and enriching the life experience of all age groups, through increased understanding of how our most experienced can be kept active, productive, contributing members of society."

Meanwhile, the centre, which already operates out of temporary offices in San Rafael, has launched a study of 2,000 nearby residents to establish how many medical and psycho-social problems arise as people grow older. Also, work is underway to recruit researchers from other parts of the world and exchange and compare findings from other institutions, including the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology, the University of Shanghai and the Kiev Institute of Gerontology. Concludes McEachron: "The field of gerontology is still very small, but this is a growth industry." — World News Link.

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Street food can make a feast

By Philippa Neeve

SAN FRANCISCO — Anyone seriously interested in food would do well to follow Niloufer Ichaporla on her ritual visit to the market at day break Saturday mornings. To this soft-spoken, 47-year-old Indian woman, food is something sacred, and the market is its temple.

The early morning sun illuminates the displays of fruit and vegetables, so fresh they sparkle. A crowd of South East Asians, Middle Easterners and Africans throng around the stalls where the produce, all locally grown, awaits, crisp and glowing in deep colours. None of your pale supermarket tomatoes or limp lettuce here. This is the farmer's market, where local growers, many of them Vietnamese and South American, sell their crops.

Ichaporla moves about from stall to stall, familiar with most of the vendors with whom she discusses the latest arrivals of the season. She talks to vendors and customers alike about how to prepare a new vegetable introduced on the market by a farmer who has come from the other side of the globe to settle and cultivate California's fertile, sun-drenched soil.

Originally from Bombay, Ichaporla has seen markets and habits change a great deal in America since she arrived in 1962. "In the early 1960s, it was a major triumph to find a bunch of fresh coriander, or fresh ginger, you had to search far and wide for it," she noted. Most supermarkets have these and other once exotic products. "The immigrants have played an important role in introducing new products and spreading their popularity."

In most big cities in the U.S., practically every nation in the world is represented by a restaurant and people may taste food from countries they probably will never see. Immigrants have "also transformed and broadened what Ichaporla calls 'street food.' For New Yorkers in need of a quick snack on the go, a hot dog was about the only choice until recently. These days, the smell of roasting lamb and Middle Eastern Shish Kebabs wafts around many corners of downtown Manhattan. There are also German sausages, "Falafel" sandwiches (deep fried balls of chick peas and parsley), koftas and Greek meat sandwiches.

"I am working on street food with a passion," said Ichaporla, who studied art and anthropology. "The subject is so vast! I am planning to write a book called 'street snacks and picnic food from near and far.' Discovering and learning about street food has become the focus of her extensive travels. She recalls her childhood in India, where the preparation and selling of food is an important part of street life. Ichaporla, who was brought up in a strict manner in a British-run convent, would rebel at the sight and smell coming from the street stalls, especially in one alley of Bombay nicknamed 'Glutton's Alley.' "It was always forbidden food when I was a child, the grownups disapproved," she recalled.

She has been able to make up for it since on the frequent trips she takes to India. She appreciates the respect Indian people have for food, treating it with almost religious reverence. Hindus bring offerings in the form of rice, coconuts and other foods to their temples, she noted.

"Once I was struck by a vendor who, starting his day, lit a stick of incense: a simple ritual in which the act of selling food becomes an act of worship." At the same time, there is a certain magic to the way vendors prepare their dishes. "They have no recipes and their skills is so thrilling to watch, there is a brilliance to their display. I talk to them and some say that what they do is so simple, but how ever hard you try to reproduce it, there is something you can't quite capture it's never as good." Ichaporla has done the



World traveller Niloufer Ichaporla seeks out talented street vendors who can serve gourmet food. The best will be cited in a book she is writing.

same research throughout the world: "I was in Mauritius recently. There is a fascinating mixture of Chinese, Indian and African food. Sri Lanka too has excellent street food. And I once spent three months in Hong Kong, where I ate off the streets every night, real feasts for the equivalent of \$1."

What visitor to Thailand has not stood mesmerised by the sight of a vendor preparing green papaya salad: holding up the long green fruit and deftly chopping with a huge knife at incredible speed. "Their skill is the product of generations and generations of repetition," Ichaporla explained. "Some restaurants have tried to introduce some of these traditional dishes on their menus, but they never come out right."

Yet, back home in San Francisco, Ichaporla tries to teach the secrets of street cooking. Her students are mostly restaurant cooks and chefs. Taking one theme, for example lentils, rice or vegetables, she spends four to five hours demonstrating all the different ways to prepare each element. She has also done research on the use of some produce in different parts of the world. "Take the coconut for example," she said. "I have looked at how it is used cross-culturally and have given classes on how and where it is grown, how it is used and on all the tools and paraphernalia that goes along with it" — while Westerners put it in sweet dishes like cakes and cookies, it is a key ingredient in curries and hot meat and poultry dishes in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean.

Another example is taro, a vegetable grown throughout the tropics for its edible starchy rootstocks. "In India, they stack the leaves and roll them to eat them as greens. In Polynesia the leaves are mashed up and fermented and it is also eaten in the West Indies, but in Sri Lanka people think it is poisonous and only use the leaves to wrap around fish," she explained. Ichaporla sometimes teams up with one of America's best known chefs, Alice Waters, who gained fame with her San Francisco restaurant called Chez Panisse and several cookbooks she authored. Ichaporla lends a hand at the restaurant to prepare exotic menus for special occasions. "It is an interesting challenge to give people food that is new and intriguing, but it is important to ensure that it is not too forbidding," she said, adding that she does not, however, compromise by altering dishes to suit the Western palate, but rather works on selecting dishes that would naturally appeal. "I couldn't feel com-

fortable doing things that are different: smells and flavours the sense of smell and taste cannot be separated," she noted. She admits drawing from her father's 40 years of experience as a maker of soaps, cosmetics and perfumes in India, as well as her husband David's scientific knowledge as a biochemist. The result is three delicately fragranced salts named Aquamarilis (miracle water) and made with Indian fragrances.

Sitting in her San Francisco home which is crammed with an amazing array of artifacts, books and her beloved piano, Ichaporla shares some of her philosophy of life: "Cooking is an art form. Everything else can be too. That's what you see in India, whether it is brick-making or basket weaving. Every human endeavour can be an art form" — World News Link.

high-quality bath salts. "I don't see bath salts as very different: smells and flavours the sense of smell and taste cannot be separated," she noted. She admits drawing from her father's 40 years of experience as a maker of soaps, cosmetics and perfumes in India, as well as her husband David's scientific knowledge as a biochemist. The result is three delicately fragranced salts named Aquamarilis (miracle water) and made with Indian fragrances.

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Gulf beaches still lure a few fearless tourists

By Andrew Quinn
Reuters

DUBAI — Baghdad's stockpile of nerve gases could cause death in seconds, but the few hardy tourists in this corner of the Gulf are more concerned about sunburn.

"People at home might be worried, but I'm not," said a Canadian visitor who gave her name as Cathy. "My worries proved completely groundless," agreed Lucy Zamolo, a Middlesex, England. "Far from feeling threatened, I have never had such a carefree holiday with no fears for the children."

The countries of the Gulf boast some of the finest hotels and plushiest beach resorts in the world with miles of empty white sand, caressed by a warm, velvety sea.

And the sun shines every day — guaranteed.

But the remote threat of chemical attack is proving a drawback for the tourism industry, as are the equally remote chances of strafing-bombing, exploding oil rigs, or rumours of attack by Iraqi frigates.

"None of these people are scared. But a lot of other people have cancelled," said Wahid Mohammed, a lifeguard at the luxurious Chicago Beach Hotel in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Here, within range of what is becoming the biggest multinational military build-up since World War II, a handful of businessmen still toil in the sun while plucky tourists scamper from camel safaris to archaeological digs, with time out for desert tours and bargaining for bric-a-brac in bazaars.

Despite angry editorials, belated speeches and official embassy warnings to leave the area, the Gulf crisis isn't ruffling many feathers at the pool-side of Chicago Beach.

"There might as well be nothing happening. It's very relaxing," said Mike Taylor, a British businessman whose company moved him to Dubai from Saudi Arabia, where most of the U.S.-led multinational force is massing to oppose President Saddam Hussein's troops in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait.

"Actually Riyadh might be safer. I'm sort of out of the frying pan into the fire," he joked. "The news looks pretty impressive when you see it on television. But in fact it is life and business as usual here," said Cathy from Canada. Michael McFadyen, general manager at the Chicago Beach, said he had been hit with a wave of cancellations immediately after Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2. Before the invasion, the UAE was also a target of Saddam Hussein's wrath. He accused both

Kuwait and the UAE of producing too much oil, driving down oil prices, and undermining Iraq's oil-based economy.

The UAE, along with other Gulf Arab states, has welcomed foreign troops to protect it, dramatically boosting its strategic military importance.

But even though his 800-plus room hotel is now host to a mere 30 Western guests, McFadyen is confident about the future.

"Oh, I'm expecting them back in November. Ours is mainly a winter market, anyway," he said.

Summer temperatures in Dubai often top 40 degrees Celsius (110 Fahrenheit), and August is usually the region's slowest tourist month.

Tourism professionals in Dubai are nevertheless anxious to stem the flood of alarmist news about the Gulf.

"If people think it's a war zone, they aren't going to come. But it's completely safe," McFadyen said, adding that Dubai remained a place of "guaranteed sun, sand, sea and terrific shopping."

But for most of the people now

staying at the Chicago Beach, life is a little less carefree. In line with UAE government policy, the hotel has opened its rooms to Kuwaiti refugees.

Their country annexed and their currency worthless, the Kuwaitis are in no mood for the hotel's pool-and-tennis lifestyle, although a few children do play in the water, supervised by women swathed in black veils.

"This is no vacation for me. I am waiting," said a Kuwaiti who added he wanted to return home as soon as possible.

APPEAL

MILK & MEDICINE FOR THE CHILDREN OF IRAQ

An appeal directed to the human conscience all over the world, starting from Jordan.

From the children of Jordan to fathers and mothers wherever they are.

The children of Jordan from the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) who are aware there is still a responsive human conscience appeal to all citizens in Jordan, to the local, Arab, regional and international organisations and institutions and the world child organisations and to leaders of the world's countries to end injustice against the children of Iraq who are threatened with being deprived of bread, milk and medicine.

The children of Jordan demand all to implement the principles of the international declaration on children's rights which provides for protecting and taking care of children under all circumstances, in all times and in the days of war and peace alike. The principles of the international declaration on the children's rights by which all the world abide by linking between these rights and the child's basic needs. The declaration's provisions under articles No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 guarantee the protection and welfare of children as well as social, food, and educational security and their right to grow up in healthy conditions in the times of war, peace and disasters.

The children of Jordan appeal for providing milk, food and medicine supplies for the children of Iraq.

This appeal comes on the eve of convening the world summit for children in which many leaders of the world's countries will take part to protect childhood.

As we head our call from the General Union of Voluntary Societies in Jordan we appeal to fathers and mothers to respond favourably to this call. Let us share our food together.

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GUVS - Zarqa Governorate	(09)981712
GUVS - Balqa Governorate	(05)555285
GUVS - Karak Governorate	(03)351169
GUVS - Ma'an Governorate	(03)32477
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Jordanian athletes gear up for Asian Games

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Tiny droplets of sweat seep through the pores of the athletes' skin as they push themselves against the test of time. Endurance is the key element that will decide their position in world of sports. As the athletes go through various trying stages in training, the ninth Asian Olympic Games draw nearer by the day.

The Asian Games, to be held in Peking, China, from Sept. 22 until Oct. 7, is anticipated to attract some 7,000 participants throughout Asia. Among the thousands of competitors is Jordan's delegation which comprises the athletics, shooting and wrestling teams. According to Abdullah Abu Nuwwar, the director of the

Jordanian Olympic Committee (JOC), the Basketball Federation was scheduled to participate but had to cancel recently. He told the Jordan Times that it was purely because of financial reasons. He did not elaborate further. Omar Keilani, coach for the shooting team, said that the problem of the Basketball Federation was that two of their best players left the team — one had to leave the country and the other had an operation. "The coach decided that the team would not do as well, so they refrained from entering."

According to Keilani, the shooting team was also facing some problems because the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) wanted the team to participate individually. He added that the Jordanian team was unsure as to who would participate and "usually we

participate as a team. So, our morale was low. But a few days ago, we became a team of five and we put our best. So I think we are ready to stand a good chance."

Experts said that the wrestling team would be unable to participate in the Asian Games. Though Abu Nuwwar agrees that "there were a few internal problems," he stressed that "they are definitely gearing themselves up for tough competition."

In fact, the three teams are adapting themselves to a one track minded "I must win" mentality. With several mouths of hard training behind them and a special training course in Germany at the University of Kiel — where the teams competed with other countries for a period of 15 days — "they are as ready as they can be," says Abu Nuwwar.

In athletics five Jordanians will compete in highjump, the 100 metre, 200 metre, 400 metre, 800 metre, 1,500 metre, 5,000 metre and 10,000 metre track events. The four participants in Wrestling will compete in the 57 kilograms (kg), 82 kg, 90 kg, and 100 kg events. The third team, a five member shooting team, will participate in three different events, namely the trap, skeet and the free rifle.

Some 23 participants, including a doctor, a financial manager and members of the press, will be attending the games.

Relaxed, Abu Nuwwar says the Jordanian Olympic Federation is aiming for anything better than tenth place and adds that Jordan rates quite high among the other Arab countries. "They have a good

chance."

One of the activities during the Asian Games will be a general meeting under the umbrella of the OCA. Held every four years, the council meets to review the chairman's and the financial managers' reports, to study the activities taking place and to elect a new president, as well as the date and venue for the tenth Asian Games.

Other events taking place during the one month long games are archery, badminton, basketball, boxing, canoeing, cycling, fencing, football, golf, gymnastics, handball, hockey, judo, rowing, softball, swimming, table tennis, tennis, volleyball, weightlifting, and yachting. Arts festivals, exhibitions and cultural performances will also be held.

China, the largest country is

Asia and the most populous country in the world, is awaiting for an additional large number of spectators and competitors this September. According to Abu Nuwwar, another feature of China is the climate; the humidity levels soar high above the normal and the actual temperature can be higher than in Jordan.

Keilani however said that the Jordanian teams would have no difficulty in adapting to the temperatures because the teams have already participated in the Seoul and Los Angeles Olympics where the climates are similar to China's.

In the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games, Jordan was awarded two bronze medals for the kwon doo, though they were not formally competing. But, Jordan ranks third place in the kwon doo according to Abu Nuwwar.

Edberg upset, other seeds win in U.S. Open

NEW YORK (AP) — Stefan Edberg, a victim of tennis' new no. 1 spot, succumbed to his U.S. Open jinx and the rocketing returns of a young Steve Sampras.

Alexander Volkov, the Kaliningrad kid, wielded a bright racket under a brilliant sun and methodically took apart a surprisingly slow Edberg, 6-3, 7-6 (7-3), 6-2. Tuesday in the first opening-round defeat of a top-seeded man here in 19 years.

Unseeded John McEnroe, who burned out on tennis several years ago and has been struggling to come back ever since, survived pressure and tamed his temper to beat Javier Sanchez 7-6 (10-8), 7-5 (7-3), 6-4 in two hours, 42 minutes of high drama on the stadium court.

McEnroe's bizarre countenance — his eyes glowed through a mask of white sunscreen beneath a broad pink bandana — was outdone only by the strange ensemble of neon lime, black and white worn by fourth seed Andre Agassi, a 6-4, 6-2, 6-0 winner in the evening against Grant Connell.

Agassi, who completed his rakish look with a dangling earring, scraggly beard and white bandana around long, black and blond hair, put on a show of power tennis in one of his best efforts since reaching the French finals.

Jennifer Capriati, too young at 14 to worry about burnout, and fashionably dressed by her multimillion dollar sponsors, saved a set-point in the first set and won her open debut as a pro, 7-5, 7-5, against a very tough 15-year-old, Anke Huber.

Capriati, astoundingly cool and strong for her age, won the first two games at love and took a 4-0 lead before Huber stormed back to win the next five games. But Capriati dug in and Huber yielded, losing a set-point in the 10th game and double-faulting on

set point in the 12th.

Capriati, who wooed the juniors here last year, had similar problems holding a lead in the second set. She jumped ahead 5-2, powering deep groundstrokes against the moonballs of Huber, but let the lead slip away as Huber tied it 5-5 with a crafty mixture of shots. Agassi facing serve, Capriati broke down held serve, then broke Huber with another hard forehand that Huber lunged at but could only tap backhand into the net.

Ivan Lendl, aiming to regain the top ranking that Edberg took away on Aug. 15 five weeks after winning Wimbledon, easily won his first-round match and said he wasn't totally surprised by Edberg's defeat.

"Of course it's an upset, but when you think about it deeply you can see how it happened," the third-seeded Lendl said after beating Martin Laurendeau, 7-5, 6-2, 6-2. "Volkov's strengths play into Stefan's weaknesses, and Stefan's strengths play into Volkov's strengths."

Volkov, a left-hander, excels at return of service and handles well the kick on Edberg's serve that torments many right-handers. Volkov also passes well, and mixes up his game with chop backhands that threw off Edberg when he was a set late to the ball.

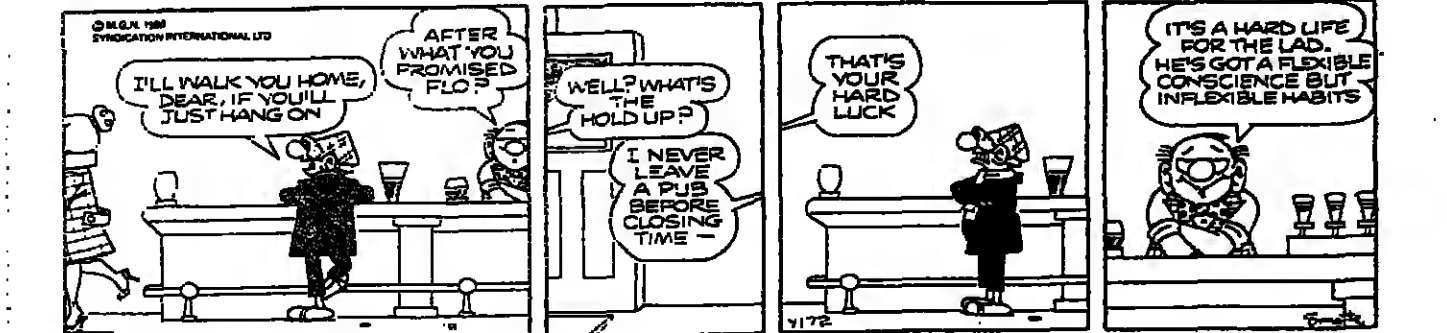
Martina Navratilova, also trying to get back to the no. 1 spot she held for so long, attributed Edberg's sluggishness to an overdose of tennis this summer. "I was surprised how many times Edberg played between Wimbledon and the U.S. Open," said Navratilova, who danced with Edberg at the Wimbledon ball after their victories, then took a break from the game.

Navratilova, well-rested, had little trouble beating Federica Haudmuller 6-4, 6-0 to advance to the second round.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



ATHLETICS

Soviet champion fails to reach long jump final

SPLIT, Yugoslavia (R) — Defending champion Robert Emmiyan of the Soviet Union failed to reach the final of the men's long jump when he fouled with all three qualifying leaps at the European Athletics Championships Wednesday.

Emmiyan, the European record holder who won a silver medal at the World Championships, received a red flag for overstepping the board on each of his attempts.

His failure to qualify was a shock as his top performance this year of 8.32 metres was easily the best of those in the field.

Three years ago Emmiyan recorded the second best leap ever of 8.86 metres, only four centimetres outside American Bob Beamon's 8.90 at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico.

Jarmo Karna of Finland produced the best qualifying jump of 8.13 metres. Giovanni Evangelisti of Italy, bronze medalist four years ago, only just reached the final with 7.91 metres.

In the 100 metres hurdles, Monique Ewanje-Epe of France was the fastest qualifier for the semifinals, winning her heat in 12.72 seconds.

Brigitte Graeme of West Germany led the women's javelin qualification with a throw of 64.18 metres. Olympic champion and world record holder Petra Felke of East Germany earned her place in the final with just one throw of 63.22.

France's Christian Flaziat extended his overnight lead in the decathlon, setting a personal best of 13.98 seconds in the 110 metres hurdles.

Olympic champion Christian Schenk of East Germany clocked 15.24 seconds and trailed Flaziat by 220 points after six events. East Germany's elite women sprinters signed off in style at the

nation's last major athletics championship Tuesday and Linford Christie killed doubts about his form by keeping the European 100 metres title.

Katrin Krabbe led East Germany to a clean sweep in the women's 100 metres while Christie, the Olympic silver medalist, showed he remains Europe's premier sprinter with a decisive victory.

Thunder and torrential rain interrupted the second evening of the European Championships, forcing a halt in the men's javelin final and sending spectators scurrying for shelter.

Steve Backley ignored both the rain and a lengthy break to win the javelin title and give Britain their second gold medal of the day.

Helke Drechsler retained the women's long jump title in the last competition before the two German Athletics Federations merge and compete as a united team.

The fifth gold medal of the day went to Czechoslovak Pavel Blazek, who won the men's 20-kilometre road walk in one hour, 22 minutes five seconds.

Krabbe's win in 10.89 seconds was the second fastest time of the year and confirmed she will be a real threat to fleet-footed Jamaican Merlene Ottey at next year's World Championships.

The 20-year-old student strode with total authority to a decisive victory by two metres from world champion Silke Moeller with Kerstin Behrendt third.

"I am very happy because this is the last German team to compete in a major championship," Krabbe said.

"We hoped for one, two and three especially after Laurence Bily injured herself in the semifinals."

2 sent off as Crystal Palace defeats Chelsea

LONDON (AP) — Dennis Wise of Chelsea and Andy Gray of Crystal Palace were sent off following a first-half brawl in an English soccer league game won 2-1 by Palace.

The two players were given red cards for swinging at each other after a hard collision in the 11th minute.

Five minutes earlier, midfielder Gray had given Palace the lead from the penalty spot following a hand ball by Chelsea defender David Lee.

Ian Wright made it 2-0 in the 67th minute and English international defender Tony Dorigo pulled a goal back 10 minutes later for Chelsea.

There were four other division one games Tuesday, with Liverpool moving to the top of the standings and Southampton also winning.

Ian Rush scored his second goal in two games to steer Liverpool to a 2-0 victory over Nottingham Forest.

In other top action Leeds drew 0-0 with Manchester United and it was the same scoreline at

Sunderland where Tottenham were the victors.

At Liverpool, Rush hit the post in the first half but then picked up a pass from England international John Barnes in the 52nd minute to score.

The Welshman almost scored again three minutes later when a brilliant run by Steve McMahon gave him an opening. But Rush's shot came out off the underside of the bar.

But England's Peter Beardsley, who missed Liverpool's opening victory of the season against Sheffield United Saturday, sealed the side's win with a superb angled shot in the 83rd minute.

Tottenham's Icelandic fullback Gudni Bergsson had the best scoring chance of the goalless evening at Sunderland but goalkeeper Tony Norman produced a superb save to keep a clean sheet.

Though England World Cup star Paul Gascoigne shone in midfield, Tottenham were unable to find the finishing touch and both Gary Lineker, Gascoigne's England colleague, and Paul Stewart missed opportunities.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY AUGUST 31, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today you can make a real onslaught toward gaining your long range objectives and ambitions for you will find that you have the ear of an associate that has been standing in the way.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Matters come into the open giving you the chance to come to a better understanding with partners by intelligently discussing joint ventures.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can put a considerable amount of experience into anything requiring a neat touch, fine finish or of an artistic nature in conjunction with your friends.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Consider well how you can extract the greatest amount of pleasure from entertainment and recreation and make the arrangements to do so now.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have a chance early in the day to do whatever will establish more harmony and accord at your residence and carry through later in the day.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Consider what will best please and get the approval of your usual daily companions and you can then carry through so you cement their loyalty to you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take a good look at your

property and seek out ways to bring it more in line with attractiveness, beauty and operative skill and you produce fine results.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your own judgement is good today as to ways to make more a success of your personal wishes but family can put you in the wheels of your action if you permit.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You would be wise to consult with those you regard as confidential advisors in whatever is of private vital importance to you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A most cooperative friend is the one who will aid you the most now in putting across your personal ideas but you have to let them know your wishes.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your judgement and ideas are not good today and you would be wise to rely upon an understanding higher-up who has the experience to understand your needs.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Loss of advanced ideas different from those you have known before this can be an excellent means to forge ahead now and don't fear stand in your way.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A good day to tackle business activities with business persons who understand various aspects of your needs and sidestep a limiting friend.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY AUGUST 30, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You are now alive, awake, sharp and alert to all that is going on about you and your mind is keen and logical and you find it easy to communicate intelligently with others.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Whatever your assignment, whether at home on the road, at school or places of business, in salesmanship in public eye; be sure to perform them conscientiously.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are eager to advance your appearance and then to make arrangements for relief from burdens or entertainments but time is not yet ripe for such.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get away from home early and put your energies today on some outside activities and let conditions at your residence proceed smoothly there.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Consider what your intimate aims actually are and it will be a little easier today for you to be able to make some progress to get them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are apt to be more than usually concerned about some money or property matter but giving it your special attention will make it easy to solve.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You feel quite discontented and are not sure just how to rid

yourself of a situation that is confusing and annoying to you but don't act hastily.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Every so often one needs a day to get into the chores and little duties requiring personal attention and this is your day to get them all behind you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can turn this day very much to your advantage by letting up on your concentration on gaining your aims and being of service to good friends.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You need to be as wise as the serpent and as harmless as the dove in any outside matter so do what will protect your credit, community affairs.

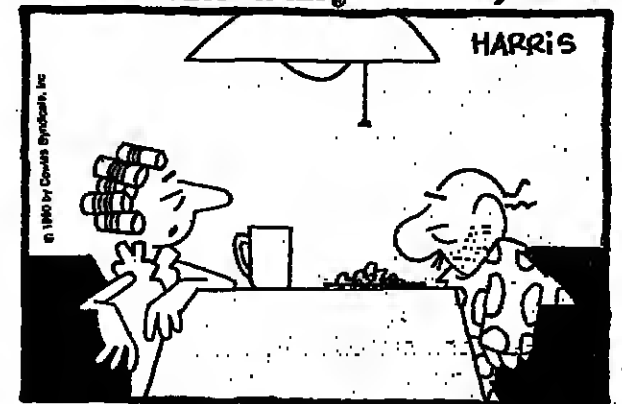
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are just itching to get off to some intriguing experience or place where you have not been before but if so you will lose out on promised duty.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A day when every sort of matter can arise that you question, especially where some accounts or practical matters are involved, but don't worry about them.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Much conversation with an associate you want to get on the right track with is apt to be counter-productive so put off discussion till later.

THE BETTER HALF.

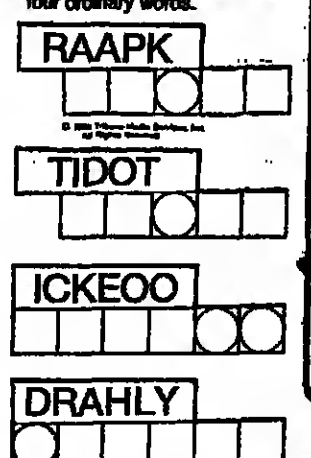
By Harris



"We're out of eggs, so I made you scrambled toast."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

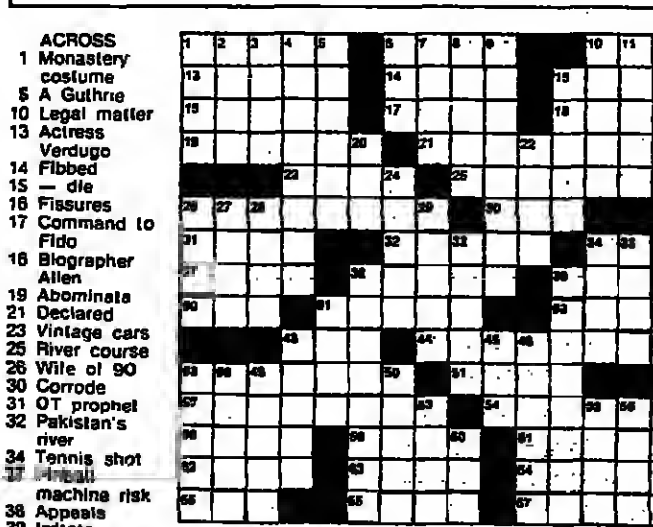


Print answer here: _____ (Answers tomorrow)

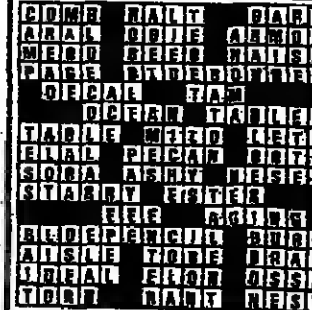
Yesterday's Jumbles: SOGGY HAVOC TARGET INVEST
Answer: A pedestrian is a person who has learned that it doesn't always pay to — GO STRAIGHT

THE Daily Crossword

by Donald B. Grant



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



July 1990

Prominent Kuwaiti praises Western friendship

STAVANGER, Norway (R) — The head of Kuwait's international petroleum company said Wednesday that the takeover of his country was a complete shock, but Kuwaitis were convinced they would eventually return home.

"This was worse than our worst nightmare. We felt there was a strong chance Kuwait would disappear from the map," Sultan Nader, president of London-based Kuwait Petroleum International, said.

Sultan told a North Sea oil conference in Stavanger the crisis would reinforce Kuwait's policy of investing oil revenues outside the Gulf.

"We have learnt who our friends are. They are in the West," said Sultan.

"I think a future Kuwaiti government will be more consumer oriented, with more investment outside the country," he said.

Kuwait might also be prepared to discuss with Western oil companies joint ownership of oil reserves. "I think it will definitely be on the table. Whether it will happen I do not know."

Toppled Kuwaiti regime to invest more in Japan

TOKYO (R) — The toppled government of Kuwait plans to increase its investment in Japan, the Kuwaiti ambassador to Tokyo said.

Abdul Aziz Al Sharikh said in an interview Tuesday night that the investments, worth billions of dollars, were mostly in the form of bonds and shares under the management of Kuwait's ministry of finance. They had been built up since 1965.

He said Japan had been cooperative in handling these assets since the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait and had moved fast to protect Kuwait's interests.

"This has strengthened our confidence in the Japanese economy and government, so much so that the investment authorities

of Kuwait are interested in increasing investments in Japan," he said.

The London-based Kuwait Investment Office, which manages most of the country's overseas holdings, has an office in Tokyo. The assets are estimated to be worth \$100 billion.

Kuwait Finance Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah is due to hold talks with Japanese leaders in Tokyo early next week. He was scheduled to arrive last Sunday but the visit was postponed because of a busy schedule.

He is carrying a message from the Emir of Kuwait to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu thanking the Japanese government for the steps it has taken, Al Sharikh said.

Gulf crisis depresses tin prices in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Tin prices plunged to their lowest level in 44 months Wednesday, one of the few major metals in the Gulf crisis, and analysts said chances for a sharp rebound appeared bleak.

"The upside potential appears bleak," said C.C. Hong, an analyst with Dexin Bullion and

Futures. "Prices may find a new support at 15.00 ringgit (\$5.6) a kilogramme."

Prices on the Kuala Lumpur tin market fell six Malaysian cents to close at 15.59 ringgit (\$5.5) a kilogramme, the lowest in 44 months, on fresh producer selling and lack of demand, traders said.

Tin, unlike other metals, has fallen in price since the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

The slide was further accelerated by rising stocks and poor demand due to the summer lull in Europe.

"We feel that prices may go a bit lower, possibly to 15 ringgit (\$5.6) and may stay at that level for the rest of the year," one trader with a large mining firm said.

Rising production in Brazil and China, huge overhang stocks and poor consumer demand are weighing on prices, traders said.

"People feel there are a lot of stocks available, why should they buy now?" one trader said.

"Furthermore, major consumers have ample supply to last for the rest of the year."

World tin production is put at 180,000 tonnes against consumption of 182,000 this year, Malaysia is the world's fourth largest tin producer.

World stocks are hovering at 30,000 tonnes. Of this, about 11,350 tonnes are held by the London Metals Exchange (LME).

The relatively high LME stocks should be trimmed by at least half to boost prices, traders said.

The fresh offer of 7,000 tonnes of stockpile tin by the U.S. defence logistics agency (DLA) was also depressing prices.

"The DLA is a key factor," Dexin's Hong said. "It is selling tin at this time to raise cash to buy rubber and other strategic raw materials."

The sliding tin prices would hurt even the larger mining firms, industry officials said.

"Many mines cannot continue operating at the 15 ringgit (\$5.6) level," an official said.

Some firms have resorted to cost-cutting measures such as a wage freeze to remain in business, the official said.

IEA rejects Iran plan

PARIS (R) — The body which monitors the West's energy needs Wednesday rejected an Iranian call for a joint meeting between it and OPEC.

It also said there could be no link between increased oil production by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and a release of government-controlled strategic oil stocks held in the West.

The two proposals were "not feasible politically or economically," said Helga Steeg, executive director of the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) in a statement.

Tuesday, Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Azgashah put forward the plans in Vienna, where OPEC ministers Wednesday ended a series of talks which had begun at the weekend.

A top IEA official last week said there was no physical shortage of oil in August, and that September would not see a shortage provided oil production was increased.

Steeg said oil companies were making use of their stocks, and the U.S. and Japan were not adding to their strategic reserves, which eased pressure on oil supplies.

"So far the oil supply situation has not warranted additional measures, including recourse to government stockpiles. However, the situation is being kept under constant review," she said.

"IEA governments are maintaining close bilateral contacts with individual oil producing countries as the situation develops," she added.

At least four million b/d of crude has disappeared off the market since the takeover stopped Kuwait's oil output and a United Nations trade ban cut off Baghdad's oil exports.

OPEC heavyweights Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and the UAE

Brent oil trades at \$26 a barrel

LONDON (R) — A decision by the majority of OPEC countries Wednesday to increase their output of crude oil had little impact on the price of North Sea Brent crude oil, a world benchmark.

"It was clear yesterday that the agreement was practically there," said one oil trader in London.

He added that the oil price "already" took into account the reported extra amount of oil that would be on the world market as a result of the OPEC decision.

Brent blend for October traded at \$26 a barrel at midday in London compared with a previous close of \$26.68. It had opened lower in London, pushed down by news of an increase in U.S. stocks of crude oil.

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Cuba orders tough fuel restrictions

HAVANA (R) — Cuba announced drastic nationwide fuel restrictions and energy-saving measures Wednesday, citing a two million tonnes shortfall in Soviet oil shipments and a surge in world oil prices due to the Gulf crisis.

The communist government halted the start-up of a new oil refinery and said it would stop production at one of the country's three operating nickel plants.

The measures, published by the official newspaper Granma, were the harshest so far introduced by the authorities to offset growing disruption to the island's economic lifeline from the Soviet Union, its main political ally and trading partner.

Granma said the country was moving towards a so-called "special period in time of peace".

Abu Dhabi orders oil output rise

DUBAI (R) — Abu Dhabi, the biggest oil producer in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has ordered an increase in oil production and Saudi Arabia appears to be already set on the same path, Gulf oil industry sources said Wednesday.

"Abu Dhabi has already ordered an increase in (oil) production," an oil industry executive in the Gulf said.

He declined to estimate the increase in the emirate's production but said it would be "dramatic".

Oil industry sources in the Gulf said the world's biggest oil exporter Saudi Arabia, which has spare oil output capacity of two million barrels per day (b/d), appears to have also ordered an increase in its production because there are technical preparations at fields to boost crude output.

However, the kingdom's oil exports from its Gulf terminals have not yet increased, oil and shipping sources in the region said.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said in a statement in Vienna Wednesday that the majority of the group reached an accord to let OPEC members raise oil production in order to maintain market stability and regular supplies.

The move was aimed at pushing oil prices down after they rose by more than 50 per cent following Iraq's takeover of Kuwait and market nervousness about further disruption in supplies if war broke out.

At least four million b/d of crude has disappeared off the market since the takeover stopped Kuwait's oil output and a United Nations trade ban cut off Baghdad's oil exports.

OPEC heavyweights Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and the UAE

could make up over three million b/d extra among themselves, oil industry sources believe.

Saudi Arabia is capable of raising its output by one million b/d in just a couple of days and needs only two more weeks to push it up another million, Gulf industry sources said.

Saudi Arabia's August crude oil output is expected to average 5.5 to 5.6 million b/d, and Abu Dhabi's oil output in the earlier part of August was estimated to be around 1.1 million to 1.2 million b/d.

The UAE was seen producing around its OPEC quota level of 1.5 million b/d including 40,000 b/d from Dubai.

Abu Dhabi has the capacity to increase its output at least another 600,000 b/d, to 1.8 million b/d or more in just over a week as it invested in oilfield equipment to make its production flexible, oil industry sources said.

"The emirate's oil policy is based on flexibility to raise or lower output quickly when demand goes up or down," an oil industry executive in the Gulf said.

The UAE's Oil Minister Mana Said Al Otaibi, when asked last Saturday in Vienna whether his country would raise its output by 500,000 b/d, said: "We can do more than that."

Abu Dhabi earlier this week informed its Japanese term contract buyers it would supply more crude in September.

Saudi Arabia has also lined up new customers including developing countries like Turkey, Brazil, India and Pakistan which relied heavily on Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude as well as telling its old buyers that it is ready to supply more in September.

The kingdom would also supply around 250,000 b/d to Kuwait's

refinery system in Europe in September.

The OPEC accord Wednesday said the group "stands for market stability and regular supply of oil to consumers."

The group's market monitoring committee decided that "OPEC shall consequently increase production, in accordance with need."

Iraq, as expected, did not send its minister to the talks in Vienna. Nor did Libya, a traditional advocate of high prices.

A third pricing "hawk", Iran, expressed reservations about the agreement. It wanted OPEC to wait before raising production to make sure that the West started to use its huge stocks of petroleum to help stabilise markets.

The OPEC statement called on the West's energy watchdog, the 21-nation International Energy Agency (IEA), whose board of governors meets in Paris Friday, to activate an agreement which permits it to order consumer nations to share oil and draw down stocks.

But the OPEC monitoring committee did not comply with an Iranian suggestion that, before sanctioning a rise in OPEC supply, it should adjourn for a week to see what the IEA would do.

IEA officials have suggested that a draw on government strategic petroleum reserves would not start yet.

OPEC also said it would return to its quota agreement reached in Geneva on July 27 when the crisis is over and a final paragraph appeared to leave open the possibility that it might then raise its target price, also known as its "minimum reference price."

Wednesday's statement said post-crisis decisions would be determined in accord with a

mechanism which says that, if ruling spot prices exceed the target, the group will raise the price and its production ceiling hand-in-hand.

The current target is \$21 per barrel, although prices have soared above \$30 at times lately because of the threat of war in the Gulf and shortages of oil.

OPEC made clear that consuming nations and traders will share the responsibility if, after the crisis in the Gulf, the world faces generally higher fuel costs.

"It must be emphasised that the equilibrium price which will thus emerge will not depend on OPEC alone but also largely on the decisions and actions of the consumers," OPEC said.

OPEC, in its statement, which took the form of a press release, said above-quota supplies from its own members like Saudi Arabia, the biggest exporter, and also supplies drawn from consumer stocks "should be primarily directed towards the countries of the Third World."

They would suffer most from any supply disruption, it said.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Azgashah attended the monitoring committee meeting.

The Nigerian minister, Jibril Aminu, was asked by reporters whether Iran expressed reservations.

"Yes," he said. "But his reservations did not stop us from reaching this agreement."

Ecuador's Diego Tamariz, who speaks for one of the smaller OPEC producers, said he thought it would be good to develop cooperation with the IEA.

But he said the priority Wednesday had been for ministers to announce the OPEC agreement and leave Vienna.

China fails to solve debt problem

BEIJING (R) — China Wednesday gave new evidence of debt problems in its state industry despite a massive influx of credit, and it called for tough penalties against firms that refuse to honour their debts.

The official People's Daily said companies with available cash were refusing to pay debts and that "joint supervision by banks and local governments" was partly to blame.

"In some cases enterprises have money but are refusing to pay debts," the newspaper said, quoting a directive from a special task force set up by the state council, or cabinet, to clear up debts of state firms.

"Banks must step up investigations of why companies are refusing to pay debts," it added.

Banks are supposed to deduct payments owed from accounts of state firms but economists said local governments may be protecting some companies from creditors because they are major employers in their region.

"When companies do not honour their debts and tie up the liquidity of others, there must be strict punishment in serious cases," the newspaper said.

"Those who do not actively join the campaign to clear debts should be criticised and if necessary they can be publicly labelled as enterprises that are unreliable," the newspaper noted.

China slammed the brakes on official credit in September 1988 to cool raging inflation. The policy brought prices under control but it starved state firms of cash and pushed the economy into

recession.

Beijing began pumping credit into the banking system in late 1989 to break what was described as "liquidity gridlock," which left many companies unable to honour debts until they were first paid funds owed to them.

Economists said the situation had eased since last year but many companies still do not have enough cash as the economy remains sluggish.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, August 29, 1990 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	655.0	659.0	
Pound Sterling	1278.3	1286.0	
Deutsche mark	421.6	424.1	
Swiss franc	510.7	513.8	
French franc		125.8	126.6
Japanese yen (for 100)		456.3	459.0
Dutch guilder		374.2	376.4
Swedish crown		114.6	115.3
Italian lire (for 100)		57.1	57.4
Belgian franc (for 10)		205.4	206.6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.			
	One Sterling	One U.S. dollar	
U.S. dollar	1.9470/80		
Canadian dollar	1.1395/1405		
Deutsche mark	1.5555/60		
Dutch guilders	1.7520/25		
Swiss francs	1.2815/25		
Belgian francs	31.93/98		
French francs	5.2100/50		
Italian lire	1148/1149		
Japanese yen	143.90/144.00		
Swedish crowns	5.7240/50		
Norwegian crowns	6.0125/75		
Danish crowns	5.9450/9500		
U.S. dollars	388.25/75		

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

Nablia Obeld — Salah Gabeel
in
THE DANCER AND THE POLITICIAN
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

Dured Lahham
Madeline Tabar
in
KAFROUN
3:30, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45
OXFORD BLUSE
5:15 only

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

Hell "2"
Samir Sabri - Maail
Zayed
in
Hell "2"
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571

POLICE
ACADEMY 6
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

Adel Imam
in
HANAFI THE GRAND
Performances: 12:30, 3:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
THE BRITISH CURRICULUM SCHOOL IN AMMAN
Is now open for registrations for the September Term 1990

AGE RANGE: Boys and Girls aged 3 years to 14 years. This includes a Nursery class where the children follow a carefully thought out and planned curriculum which will give them the basic skills and concepts necessary to begin formal schooling the following year.

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH REQUIRED: None

OTHER LANGUAGES OFFERED: Arabic and French

NATIONALITIES ACCEPTED: All

TEACHING STAFF: All U.K. qualified and experienced within their speciality.

ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Specialist teachers ensure that non-English speakers make very rapid progress.

OTHER SPECIALIST TEACHERS: Physical Education; Music; Drama; Science; Maths; English etc.

SPORTS: The aim is to incorporate the best traditions of the British educational system with the needs of an international community.

TRANSPORT: Football; Basketball; Volleyball; Athletics; Gymnastics etc.

ENQUIRIES: Buses are available to cover principal residential areas.

The School is presently accepting registrations for the September term. The school will also be open for registrations everyday in July and August between the hours of 9.00 and 12.00 noon. The new term begins on Sunday 9th September.

P.O. Box 2002
Tel: 841070

S. African union leader arrested Johannesburg City Council passes open city proposal

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The Johannesburg City Council has easily passed a proposal to open neighbourhoods in the nation's largest city to all races.

Such a move will require approval from the national government, which opposes the measure.

Only a few members of the 51-seat council opposed the proposal in the voice vote that followed more than four hours of sometimes sharp debate, the independent South African Press Association reported.

The Press Association said only one member, from the governing National Party, asked to have his objection noted.

The council is controlled by the anti-apartheid Democratic Party.

Some speakers said implementing the proposal would create problems in town planning and voter registration. Others argued that South Africa was entering a new era of race relations and Johannesburg, as its major city, should lead by example.

Deputy planning minister for the national government, Andre Fomrie, had previously said Johannesburg was moving too quickly, and should wait for more direction from President F.W. de Klerk's National Party government.

He said De Klerk has promised

to make changes next year in the group areas act, which segregates all residential areas by race.

The law is a pillar of the apartheid system of racial segregation and white dominance implemented by the National Party more than four decades ago.

De Klerk has pledged to replace the group areas act with a non-discriminatory measure, but has not said if he will open all neighbourhoods to all races.

The national law would have to include such a provision for the city to be able to enact its proposal.

Since last year, the government has opened 10 small neighbourhoods around the country to all races.

In larger areas, such as the Hillbrow section of Johannesburg, thousands of blacks have taken up residence despite the area being officially designated as "whites only."

Neighbourhoods, along with public schools and the political system, remain segregated under apartheid.

De Klerk says he wants to end apartheid and has opened talks with the African National Congress, the largest black opposition group, to discuss sharing power with the black majority.

Meanwhile, South Africa's largest labour federation responded to the arrest of its leader by charging that the nation's

security forces were trying to undermine the democratic movement.

Police raided Cosatu headquarters Tuesday and arrested General Secretary Jay Naidoo, the Press Association reported.

Naidoo and two other people later were charged with kidnapping, robbery and assault and released on 1,500 rand (\$600) bail, the Press Association reported. After his release, Naidoo denied the charges.

Police Col. Franz Malherbe told the Press Association the raid followed the alleged abduction of a police constable by members of the congress of South African Trade Unions.

Malherbe said the constable was abducted off the street and taken to the union's headquarters, where he was assaulted.

The constable, Joseph Maleka, earlier had been displayed to journalists at a Cosatu news conference. He said he was recruited by police to monitor the movements of Gerakline Fraser, a Communist Party and African National Congress member who recently returned to South Africa from exile, the Press Association reported.

At the news conference, Cosatu officials said Maleka had a walkie-talkie and photographs of Miss Fraser.

Malherbe said Maleka was speaking under pressure.

In a separate development De Klerk told church leaders Tuesday he would investigate charges that police sided with Zulu-based Inkatha fighters in recent township violence.

Black leaders have blamed police for fueling the two weeks of savage street fighting in black townships around Johannesburg that killed more than 500 people.

Police said two black men were killed in unrest Tuesday, but the townships were otherwise peaceful for a fourth straight day following a government crackdown.

A delegation of church leaders, including Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Rev. Frank Chikane, head of the South African Council of Churches, met with De Klerk and Law and Order Minister Adrian Vlok in Pretoria to discuss the violence.

After the two-hour meeting, Chikane told journalists the president had pledged to investigate charges that police aided Inkatha supporters in the fighting against Khasas and other blacks loyal to the African National Congress.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela, Tutu and other anti-apartheid figures have said police bias toward Inkatha inflamed the situation. They accused police of disarming and scattering ANC supporters while allowing Zulus to carry crude weapons considered part of their tribal heritage and costume.

Armenia in state of emergency after parliamentarian shot dead

MOSCOW (R) — Armenia's parliament declared a state of emergency throughout the southern Soviet republic Wednesday after a parliamentary deputy was shot dead.

Alexander Arzumanyan, a spokesman for the Armenian National Movement, said deputies voted 170-0 with two abstentions to impose a 10 p.m. curfew and ban demonstrations after parliamentarian Victor Aivazyan was shot before dawn.

Arzumanyan said Aivazyan had gone with a group of activists to the headquarters of the Armenian National Army (ANA), the largest of several armed militia in Armenia, to discuss a dispute the evening before at a petrol station.

"Without any explanation, the group was fired on," Arzumanyan said by telephone from Yerevan, the Armenian capital.

Aivazyan and an activist were killed and another man was seriously wounded.

Under the emergency legislation, the ANA was declared an illegal organisation and ordered

to give up its arms by 10 p.m. Wednesday evening.

If it fails to comply, it will be disbanded by Armenian Interior Ministry and KGB security forces and paramilitary groups loyal to parliament.

Those ANA members giving up their weapons would be granted an amnesty, parliament declared.

News of Aivazyan's death was announced to parliament by Armenia's new nationalist President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who held talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev this month to discuss the proliferation of armed groups in the republic.

In July Gorbachev had ordered all groups disbanded within 15 days but, after the two men met in Moscow, Gorbachev extended the order by two months.

The groups have gained wide public backing and tacit support of parliament during more than two and a half years of conflict with the neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. Many of the

paramilitaries had declared loyalty to Ter-Petrosyan and the Armenian parliament.

The independent Interfax news agency said Aivazyan went to the ANA's heavily-fortified central Yerevan headquarters with a large group of pro-government activists.

Officials said he had gone to seek an explanation for the petrol stations clash but an ANA representative, reached by telephone at the group's headquarters, described Aivazyan's presence there as a provocation.

"What was he doing there at 6 a.m.?" She asked. "Who does this serve? It serves the Kremlin mafia. We must have our national army. Our homeland cannot be without its army, its defence."

An Armenian television correspondent also reached at ANA headquarters said the situation in the area was quite hot "it looks as though it could turn into a very hot day."

"People are standing around and it looks as though they are preparing for something."

Column 80000

Bush hooked while fishing

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (R) — U.S. President George Bush accidentally got hooked in the ear while fishing with one of his sons and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, creating a minor mystery. Bush, unharmed, left for Washington for meetings on the Gulf crisis. His wife, Barbara, told reporters, "he's fine." When asked if he was the fisherman who had caught a president, Mulroney, an overnight guest at Bush's seaside estate, cryptically replied: "It was not a hostile act." Bush's son, Jeb, who was along on the expedition, said rumours that the Canadian leader was the culprit were "really not true," but left it unclear if he was to blame. Diplomatic sources said Jeb was responsible for bagging Bush. Despite the accident, the fishing expedition was successful. Mulroney said he caught one bluefish and the president caught three.

Kohl promises E. German prosperity as municipal workers stage walkout

HALLE, East Germany (AP) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl tried to woo East German voters with promises of jobs and prosperity Tuesday as a work stoppage over unification fears brought some municipal services to a halt.

Kohl's campaign speech received mostly cheers, but a group of leftist protesters responded by hurling tomatoes and peaches.

Earlier, about 45,000 workers across East Germany staged warning strikes to demand better wages and job security in a united Germany.

Kohl told a crowd of nearly 5,000 in Halle, about 200 kilometres south west of Berlin, that the legacy left by 40 years of Communist rule was a "sad thing," adding: "It is our goal that this economy becomes a blossoming landscape."

It was Kohl's first appearance at an East Germany rally since the setting of the Oct. 3 date for

unification. It also marked the start of his campaigning in East Germany for the leadership of a united Germany.

During the appearance, several hundred supporters of the now-dissolved Communist Party repeatedly interrupted Kohl.

The West German leader came to this industrial city of 400,000 residents to open a training programme for young workers.

As Kohl took to the podium, leftists tossed tomatoes and peaches over the metal barrier separating the crowd from the chancellor. The food splattered at the foot of the platform.

Kohl, tanned after an Alpine vacation, criticised the demonstrators, saying the issues of unity "will not be decided on the street."

Kohl told the crowd he was optimistic that agreement could be reached by the end of the week on the so-called "unity treaty." Dispute over abortion rules

has delayed ratification of the treaty, which covers a host of unification issues like tax reforms and property claims.

East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere also appealed to his countrymen to rebuild their country.

"We should lose no time. We have it easier than our eastern neighbours. If we remain plucky and show the courage to act responsibly, we'll be out of the woods soon. Our chances are good," said De Maiziere.

Kohl and De Maiziere hope to attract support for the Dec. 2 all-German elections and for East Germany's Oct. 14 state elections.

The warning strikes were staged in Halle and at least nine other cities.

Nurses, secretaries, bus drivers, garbage-haulers and other municipal employees stopped working for up to two hours.

Nigerians flock to see woman with 'miracle cures'

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (R) — Thousands of Nigerians lepers, cripples and other disabled people are flocking to the home of a woman reputed to work miracle cures, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) has reported. It said Hajira Zulai, 35, wife of a security guard in Maiduguri, capital of northern Borno state, claimed to have cured 1,200 people in little more than a week. The state government has assigned 50 armed policemen to keep order among the thousands of men and women — the afflicted and the curious — besieging her humble zinc house. She takes no money for her services. Zulai told a NAN correspondent who witnessed one of her healing sessions that two white-robed men woke her about two weeks ago and instructed her in rituals to cure the disabled. NAN said its reporter watched her restore the sight of a blind man by washing his face with water and honey. It also quoted her as saying she can cure barren women, straighten crooked limbs and heal the deaf and dumb.

Manila arrests suspected bomber

MANILA (R) — Philippine intelligence agents have captured a man they say was involved in a rash of bombings that have hit Manila and nearby towns, a military official said Wednesday.

Major-General Rodolfo Biazon, deputy chief of staff of the Philippine Armed Forces, told a congressional committee that the arrested man, whom he refused to name, had made a confession.

"He is a civilian and we are

getting something out of this fellow. We are getting valuable information from him," he said.

At least 17 bombs have gone off in and around Manila since Aug. 13 in a campaign said by military officials to have been launched by dissident soldiers prior to a coup attempt against President Corason Aquino.

The detained man was involved in attacks on two government offices in the Makati business district, Biazon said.

2 Liberian rebels surrender to African force

DEFENCE SECRETARY Fidel Ramos told the hearing there was no need for Aquino to impose emergency rule or declare martial law.

"In our situation today, I think we have not reached a stage where martial law should be implemented," he said.

The president can suspend the right of Filipinos to appear in court after arrest or can call out the army to restore order.

2 more found killed in Florida town

GAINESVILLE, Florida (AP) — Two more bodies were discovered in this university city, and police linked them to the mutilations of three women students whose deaths set off a wave of fear at the start of the school year.

"It's clear this part of the country has some macabre on the loose," University of Florida President John Lombardi said during a staff meeting. "It reminds us of a natural catastrophe. The killer is selecting victims by criteria that are not clear to us."

The bodies of a man and a woman were found together Tuesday morning at a student apartment complex near one

2 more found killed in Florida town

where two bodies were discovered Sunday, said Alachua County Sheriff's Lt. Spencer Mann.

Police set up a command post between those off-campus sites and about two miles from the apartment where a third body was discovered early Monday.

The two latest victims were identified as Tracy Lee Pauls and a 23-year-old friend, Manuel R. Tohada, both graduates of American High School in Miami. Tohada had just been accepted at nearby Santa Fe Community College and was planning to study architecture, said a friend, Eric Dunham, 22, of Sarasota. Ms. Pauls, whose age was not available, reportedly was pursuing a law degree.

"All five victims are probably connected to one suspect or two suspects," because the methods of the killer appeared similar, Gainesville police chief Wayland Clifton said. He did not elaborate.

The Gainesville Sun, however, reported Tuesday that mutilation of the first three bodies found was the apparent connection.

"I don't think it takes a rocket scientist to figure out that anybody that commits homicide using mutilation is a pretty sick individual, and it's somebody we want to get off the streets very badly," said Mann.

Indian minister to quit over Assam

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Law Minister Dinesh Goswami said Wednesday he was determined to quit the cabinet despite Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's refusal to accept his resignation.

Goswami, who represents the northeastern state of Assam in parliament, told Reuters he would not withdraw his resignation, which was offered and rejected, Tuesday, unless there was a qualitative change in the situation which had prompted it.

He said his resignation concerned Assamese issues and was not a prelude to a crisis in the government such as in July when Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal was ousted from the cabinet, he added.

"How can I continue in parliament, if the Assamese people I represent feel I have let them down? At the same time, I cannot bear the humiliation my cabinet colleagues faced in Assam last weekend," Goswami said.

Student protesters mobbed Goswami and two cabinet colleagues during a visit to the state.

Goswami said his Assam Gana Parishad (AGP) Party, a member of India's ruling National Front alliance, was under great pressure to expel illegal immigrants, mostly Bangladeshis, from the state.

Students have also protested against what they call New Delhi's exploitation of resource-rich Assam, which is also fighting a separatist insurgency.

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The minority National Front government depends for survival on the Hindu BJP party and the Communists, who are both opposed to tougher legislation on Assam's immigrant issue.

But feeling against illegal Bangladeshi immigrants is running high in Assam, which votes for a new assembly later this year.

Militant Assamese students and insurgents allege thousands of Bangladeshis have put themselves on the electoral rolls and might reduce the pre-dominance of ethnic Assamese in state politics.

The state was rocked by pre-poll riots over similar disputes in February 1983. More than 3,000 people were killed.

Statue of Liberty closed by protest

NEW YORK (R) — The island where the Statue of Liberty stands was shut to the public after 100 homeless people led by black activist Al Sharpton set up tents as part of a protest to rename New York City after murdered civil rights leader Martin Luther King. The protesters were arrested about five hours after they put up their tents in defiance of orders from the National Park Service, which operates the world-famous tourist attraction on Liberty Island in New York Harbour. A park service spokesman said the demonstrators would be removed from the island. Sightseeing boats were diverted to their ports and tourists on the island were returned to the mainland. Earlier, Sharpton, a controversial black activist who has been criticised by some stirring racial passions in the city, led a demonstration from city hall to Battery Park in lower Manhattan seeking a referendum to change the name of New York City to Martin Luther King City.

Sexism row erupts in German state ministry

HANOVER, West Germany (R) — Male civil servants in a West German office are hot under the collar after their female boss banned neckties as phallic symbols. The order has sparked a knotty sexism row in the state Culture Ministry in the northern state of Lower Saxony. "I want to know... if bureaucrats wearing ties will in future be prosecuted as sexual exhibitionists," former Culture Minister Horst Herrmann asked in a written question to the state legislature. His successor Helga Schuehard has apparently ordered male employees in her ministry to end the centuries-old fashion. Her spokeswoman confirmed the minister twice told staff not to wear ties, but because of a mid-summer heat wave. "However, the word phallus may have come up," the spokeswoman said. The Bild newspaper quoted sex researcher Volker Zimmermann as saying: "A tie is a sign of strength and masculinity." Peter Spoor, a police inspector, was cynical. "The woman should ask herself if she should keep buying bananas. They are phallic symbols, too."

Sri Lankan rebels blast causeway near Jaffna Fort

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil guerrillas blasted a causeway leading to a besieged garrison in northern Sri Lanka, hocking attempts by 2,500 government soldiers to rescue men trapped there, military sources said Wednesday.

The sources said rebels Tuesday blew up the 2.4 kilometres long causeway linking Mandaitivu Island to Jaffna Fort garrison, where 200 soldiers and policemen have been under siege by Tamil rebels since June.

They also blasted a road outside the fort. The extent of the damage was not known, but the sources said it would further delay reinforcements reaching the fort from Mandaitivu.

The soldiers had been expected to break through rebel lines outside the fort Sunday and rescue their colleagues, but the booby-trapped causeway slowed their advance.

On Monday, an air force helicopter rescued seven seriously

wounded soldiers from the fort. The helicopter also took into the fort eight soldiers, food, arms and medical supplies.

It was the second rescue mission by the same air force team. On July 3 they rescued seven men from the fort.

The 350-year-old fort in Jaffna town has been hit daily with mortar and rocket fire launched by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas who began a fresh offensive on June 11.

Jaffna is the main base of the Tigers, who are trying to carve out a separate state for the island's 2.5 million Tamil minority community.

In a separate battle Tuesday, soldiers killed 15 rebels who tried to attack a Muslim village and a small army camp in eastern Ampara district.

A soldier was killed and five were wounded in the fighting, the sources said.

Tornadoes kill 24 in U.S.

PLAINFIELD, Illinois (R) — Tornadoes killed at least 24 people near Chicago, including children plucked from a block of flats and hurled to their deaths in a cornfield.

More than 280 people were injured, some critically. Rescue workers dug into rubble during the night looking for more victims.

Dozens of homes were destroyed in Tuesday's storm, the worst to hit the area since 1967 when a tornado killed 32 people.

The Will County coroner's office said at least 24 people died, 10 of them in Crest Hill, a village where the top two floors of a line of low-income, three-story flats were ripped away by the storm.

Some of the dead from the flats, mostly children, were found in an adjacent cornfield. A helicopter using searchlights hovered over the field looking for more victims.

A rescue worker carried a brass cage containing a white hamster, pulled out from under the debris. A woman walked through the cornfield, weeping and carrying a child's shoe.

"The building disintegrated and the people were carried out into the cornfield, most of them children," said Dave Martif, a fire chief from Lockport, Illinois.

"Right now we're tearing apart the building."

Other victims included a nun, the principal of a Roman Catholic School who died when the building collapsed around her. The janitor of high school in Palisfield, a town of 3,800, was crushed when a tornado reduced the building to rubble.

Dale Moffett, 36, a construction worker who rode out the storm in his apartment said: "I heard that train (noise) coming down on my building. My first thought was that Iraq had attacked."

(The United States has more than 100,000 troops in Saudi Arabia in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait).

He said he looked up to see the tornado carrying people and cars away. A woman and her two grandchildren, he said, had their apartment ripped from under them and they fell unhurt to the floor below.

At Plainfield High School, students took cover in a hallway. The building collapsed around them but they walked out.

"Our ears started popping and we heard a loud crash," said a young man. "The rest of the school's gone. I went outside and looked."

Venus mapping delayed to late September

PASADENA, California (Agencies) — The Magellan space probe's mission to map the surface of Venus is being delayed again so a team of engineers can figure out why the spacecraft keeps losing contact with Earth, an official has said.

"We're targeting for the last week in September to start mapping," said Tony Spear, Magellan project manager at the NASA space agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Spear had said Friday that engineers hoped to fix the problem in time to have Magellan working properly by mid-September. Before Magellan started malfunctioning, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) planned for it to make pictures and maps of Venus on a regular basis starting Sept. 1.

The spacecraft remained in a protective "safing mode" Tuesday, Spear said.

Engineers still haven't figured out why Magellan's radio link to Earth failed for 14 hours starting Aug. 16 and for 17 1/2 hours beginning Aug. 21, he added.

So Spear said he organised a team of 40 engineers from the laboratory and from Martin Marietta Corp., which built Magellan, to determine what is wrong with the spaceship and to fix it.

Magellan's \$744 million mission is to use radar to peer through Venus' thick clouds and make the best pictures and maps yet of the planet's surface. It was launched from the space shuttle Atlantis on May 4, 1989.

Pictures made during an Aug. 16 radar test showed extensive "venuesque" faults, vast flows of solidified lava, cinder cones, a lava-filled meteorite impact crater and countless valleys and mountain ridges on the surface of Earth's nearest planetary neighbour.

Indian minister to quit over Assam

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Law Minister Dinesh Goswami said Wednesday he was determined to quit the cabinet despite Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's refusal to accept his resignation.

Goswami, who represents the northeastern state of Assam in parliament, told Reuters he would not withdraw his resignation, which was offered and rejected, Tuesday, unless there was a qualitative change in the situation which had prompted it.

He said his resignation concerned Assamese issues and was not a prelude to a crisis in the government such as in July when Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal was ousted from the cabinet, he added.

"How can I continue in parliament, if the Assamese people I represent feel I have let them down? At the same time, I cannot bear the humiliation my cabinet colleagues faced in Assam last weekend," Goswami said.

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Mulroney urges Indians to take down barricades

OTTAWA (R) — In a last-minute appeal to avert bloodshed, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney urged Mohawk warriors to dismantle their fortified barricades in Quebec before soldiers move in to crush them.

"Take down the barricades yourselves now," Mulroney said at a televised news conference.

"If you persist in your illegal activities, you will bring danger and dishonour to your people."

Mulroney, fresh from briefings on the Gulf crisis with U.S. President George Bush, promised that if the barricades were removed peacefully, the government would address the Indian's grievances.

But Indian leaders around Canada dismissed Mulroney's plea, saying the natives are being heard now only because they have militarily challenged the white authorities.

Earlier Tuesday the army stepped up its war of nerves against the Mohawks, dispatching fighter planes over two reservations in Quebec to get a better look at the Indians' defences.

The army has not said when it will move against the heavily fortified barricades in Kahnawake, just south of Montreal, and Oka, a resort town 32 kilometres west of Montreal.

Lieutenant General Kent Foster, the officer leading the operation, told reporters at the St Hubert Base in Montreal that the soldiers would not shoot first, but he said he could not divulge

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details without risking the lives of the 4,000 troops camped outside the reservations.

Streams of Mohawk women and children continued the exodus out of Kahnawake that began Monday afternoon when Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa ordered the army to dismantle the Indian barricades.

"If they (the Mohawk warriors) resist the efforts to dismantle the barricades, there could be loss of life," Mulroney said.

The army's presence in Quebec marks the first time it has been called into the French-speaking province since 1970, when a fringe French Canadian separatist group waged a campaign of bombings and kidnappings.

Although Bourassa broke off talks with the Mohawks Monday, accusing them of negotiating in bad faith, there were unconfirmed reports that Mohawk leaders met Tuesday with government officials to look for ways to prevent bloodshed.

Racial tensions have flared during the seven-week standoff, which erupted on July 11 when police stormed a blockade erected by the Indian community at Oka to stop the town from extending a golf course onto land they regard as sacred.

Many Montreal residents have been staging protests to demand that the army flatten the barricades on the Mercier Bridge, which links Montreal to the southern suburbs.

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